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LD1608134088 [Editorial Report]

Palestinian Affairs

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid called his talks with a Palestinian delegation on developments in the occupied territories "very positive," MENA noted.

Al-Majid said in a press statement that the goal of the talks is "to give an impetus to the peace process" and to "establish the Palestinian people's right to self-determination."

Commenting on the talks, Palestinian delegation member 'Abdallah Hurani said they sought a "realistic program acceptable to all parties," according to MENA. Any decisions on "political options" would be "based on Egypt's experience and advice," he added.

Reacting to Salah Khalaf's proposal to negotiate with Israel and establish a provisional Palestinian government, the PFLP-GC called it "a deviationist trend" and part of a plot "concocted by reactionary and imperialist parties," the clandestine Al-Quds radio declared.

A Palestinian Popular Struggle Front spokesman said the statement constitutes a "violation" of the "unanimously approved Palestinian resolutions," Radio Monte Carlo reported.

George Habash, leader of the PFLP, said the establishment of an "independent" Palestinian state "does not and should not mean recognition of the enemy entity," the radio added.

Al-Quds radio commented that such "Black Sunday statements" constitute "preparation" for a "march along the Camp David road" and called Khalaf's position "regrettable, ridiculous, and lamentable."

Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, told a Baghdad news conference that the death toll in the occupied territories since the beginning of the uprising has reached 422 persons, INA reported.

Abu Sharif decried recent Israeli measures to limit the inflow of currency to the territories as violating all "international norms and charters" and "the simplest human rights."

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Jerusalem television that Salah Khalaf's remark on negotiations "creates and exacerbates confrontations" with Israel. He said Khalaf's plan seeks "the elimination of the State of Israel by stages" and said Khalaf is "naive" to think anyone in Israel would accept the "concept."

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told Jerusalem radio that the Palestinians must decide if they want to "negotiate or shoot" and said Khalaf's remarks "are not a basis for anything."

The Labor Party changed its political platform to include negotations with Palestinians "even if they are identified with the PLO," IDF radio reported. The party's political platform committee decided to accept the "Yariv-Shmetov formula" in the wake of Jordan's move in the occupied territories, the radio added.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj called for the "reinstatement of full cooperation" between Jordan and the PLO, saying such cooperation is "essential and imperative," Jerusalem radio stated. Frayj added he "wholly" supports Khalaf's call for an independent Palestinian state as "the only solution" to the Palestinian problem.

Three U.S. teenagers were injured when the bus in which they were traveling was stoned near the Damascus Gate in East Jerusalem, IDF radio announced. They were the first tourists to be injured in the uprising, the radio noted.

In Gaza, the Army confronted 650,000 residents who left their homes to "resist" the curfew, according to Jerusalem radio. Young Palestinians threw stones and burned tires as "fundamentalist Muslim activists" urged residents to violate the curfew, the radio disclosed.

An Arab laborer died after the hut he slept in in Or Yehuda was set afire recently, Jerusalem radio reported. He is the third to die in the incident, which a fire inspector branded as arson, the radio added. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Army Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said "rumors" regarding the incident "helped fan" the Gaza unrest, the radio disclosed. Shomron said the Gaza curfew will be lifted only "as the area calms down."

Two Air Force pilots were killed 15 August in a midair collision when the wings of their F-15 planes touched during a training exercise, Jerusalem radio reported.

A brigade commander with the rank of colonel will be brought to trial for the alleged killing "a few months ago" of a Bani Na'im resident during a stonethrowing incident, according to Jerusalem radio.

Iran

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met 15 August in Tripoli with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to whom he delivered a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i, IRNA reported. They discussed the implementation of UN Resolution 598 and "important regional issues," IRNA added.

Al-Qadhdhafi said Libya is willing to "respond to any sign from both sides" to solve any "complications" that may arise, according to JANA, and expressed concern for "the fate of the Kurdish community."

Speaking on his return from Libya and Syria, Velayati hailed Iran's "brotherly" and "strategic" relations with those countries, IRNA noted.

In Frankfurt, Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani gave FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher a note from Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi to FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl, DPA disclosed.

In their "surprising meeting," Larijani and Genscher discussed the cease-fire and hostage Rudolf Cordes, DPA revealed. Also on the agenda were Tehran-Bonn ties and post-war construction in Iran, IRNA noted.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn received Jordan's King Husayn in Baghdad for "cordial talks," Baghdad radio reported. King Husayn congratulated Saddam on Iraq's "great victory" in the war, Voice of the Masses Radio added.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, called on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to "completely leave the political arena," INA noted. Ramadan, addressing "Syrian students" in Baghdad, called Al-Asad a "traitor of the Arab nation" for supporting Iran and said he had "betrayed" all "decisive" Arab issues.

Syria

President al-Asad briefed the Progressive National Front Central Command on the Iran-Iraq war and "condemned the stands of the Iraqi regime" which seeks to "prolong" the conflict, Damascus radio noted. The Central Command also discussed the situation in Lebanon and the occupied territories, the radio added.

Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati's recent visit was a reaffirmation of the strength of the two countries' bilateral relations, which "both sides wish to develop and expand in all fields," Damascus radio commented.

Afghanistan

The Soviet Government is "exerting every effort" to "meet its commitments" under the Geneva accords and will use "the whole of its international authority and influence" to encourage other countries to respect them, according to a Soviet Government statement carried by TASS.

Scoring Pakistan's "sordid" violations of the accords, the USSR "regrettably" was "forced to place on record" Pakistan's "interference" in Afghan internal affairs, the statement declared, and warned that such interference "cannot be further tolerated."

If Pakistan persists and "continues further reducing the role" of the accords to "the pullout of Soviet troops," the USSR "reserves for itself" the right to take any measures "necessitated by the situation," the statement said.

The United States was urged to "not remain impartial" to Pakistan's violations and to use its "influence" accordingly.

An Afghan Government statement carried by BAKHTAR hailed the progress in implementing the Geneva accords and the formation of a multiparty political system in the country.

The statement decried Pakistan's continued support of armed Afghan opposition groups and accused the United States of encouraging the opposition to commit "destructive acts" against Afghanistan.

President Najibullah told a press conference that Soviet troops remain in six provinces and the timetable for their withdrawal will be observed "in accordance with" the accords, BAKHTAR reported. He said the "politico-military situation" in the country is "complicated," especially in Takhar, Konduz, and Konar, where "extremists" have "concentrated" their forces.

Soviet troops in Arghanistan are "concentrated" around the country's "most important" transportation routes to "prevent the interruption of supplies" and to guarantee conditions for their withdrawal by 15 February, Najibullah said in a Moscow television interview.

He thanked the USSR for its "systematic help" to Afghanistan's development and said the time would come when Afghans would "show their gratitude to the Soviet people."

On the military front, government troops completed "mopping up" operations against "extremists" in Konduz, Kabul radio reported. In Kabul, "criminal extremists" fired rockets at residential areas, killing 5 persons and injuring 11 persons, the radio stated.

"Witnesses" cited by AFP said several of the rockets hit Kabul airport. In Jalalabad, 6 residents were killed 14 August when "extremists" fired 42 rockets at residential areas, the radio reported.

At a press conference in Islamabad, rebel leaders called for the Soviet Union to withdraw all its troops and pay war compensation, AFP reported.

Rebel leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar charged that the USSR is withdrawing its troops "in small contingents" rather than by "front loading" as stipulated by the Geneva accords, AFP added.

Hikmatyar said rebel activity would continue until an "Islamic government" was established in Kabul.

Palestinian Affairs

Khalaf, Abu Sharif Propose Dialogue With Israel

JN1408055388 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] The PLO intends to form a provisional government and not a government-in-exile following the disengagement of legal and administrative links between Jordan and the occupied West Bank. This was stated by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], second in command in the Fatah Movement, to the French weekly LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE.

According to Abu Iyad, the political program of this provisional government will be completely different from the national law [shur'ah] according to which the PLO is currently functioning.

In his statement to the French weekly, Salah Khalaf added he is ready to begin dialogue with Israel for the sake of establishing peace through the creation of a Palestinian state and the demarcation of its final borders and through a reciprocal recognition beween Israel and Palestine.

In a related development, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif has said the PLO is ready to exchange peace with Israel for the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the occupied territories. He added that the PLO is struggling only to establish an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and not to destroy Israel.

It will be recalled that this is the second time 'Arafat's adviser has proposed direct peace talks with Israel.

Salah Khalaf on Jordanian Measures, Other Issues

JN1308162688 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Aug 88 p 22

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Iyad, by AL-ANBA' correspondent Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Barqawi] Let us begin with the recently declared Jordanian decision disengaging administrative and political ties with the occupied West Bank. Does the PLO have any stand other than that declared after the PLO Central Council's meetings in Baghdad?

[Khalaf] We believe the objective of the decision itself is in the interest of Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation. King Husayn was courageous when he announced this decision with the objective of reinforcing the Jordanians' views on this decision. The decision also has its positive points regarding Palestinian representation in the occupied land—an issue that cannot any longer be called into question. King Husayn wanted to put the world face to face before its responsibilities. In fact, the decision both placed on us as the PLO responsibilities and has given us political rights.

As the uprising and along with it Palestinian steadfastness solidified, it became clear to everyone there is no longer anyone who can claim King Husayn represents the Palestinians. True, we did not ask King Husayn to make such a decision or consult with him. However, we look forward to good relations with Jordan. We will discuss with the Jordanians all political possibilities as well as administrative and financial details in the light of this decision, which created confusion.

Although King Husayn addressed these points at his recent news conference, it is necessary that relevant consultations be held. This will take place through a visit to Jordan in the near future by a Palestinian delegation led by Brother Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin.

[Al-Barqawi] But don't you believe the Jordanian decision has once again introduced the issue of a Palestinian government-in-exile and the issue of a Palestinian state, especially since this issue was the subject of intensified discussions in the past and then disappeared from the Palestinian arena, at least?

[Khalaf] Perhaps this is what I meant by political rights. King Husayn has placed the PLO before a political decision. It is noted that any political, legal, or constitutional decision concerns the occupied territory. We have begun a serious discussion of this decision and the PLO has succeeded through all UN resolutions concerning us.

It is known that the 1947 resolution, or the so-called partition resolution, has called for the establishment of two states, one Arab and the other Israeli. We will also discuss UN resolutions that gave us special legitimacy. All these resolutions will be discussed by the PNC. We will also begin a series of consultations with the Arab states.

We have received a high-ranking Algerian envoy, we will hold meetings with Tunisia, and a delegation will leave for Jordan. We will not make a decision without consulting with the Arab states. After this series of consultations with the Arab states, we will dispatch envoys to the European states, to the USSR, to the Islamic states, to the nonaligned states, and to the socialist states.

In light of the collection of information following these contacts and consultations, we will prepare for the coming stage of our action and then we will make a decision. We believe the issue is not that of ministers as has been said, but it is the issue of the entire Palestinian people.

[Al-Barqawi] But the Palestinian state document became known recently in occupied Palestine after the Israeli press announced that the document was confiscated.

[Khalaf] Israel tries to exploit this document, which it calls Faysal al-Husayni's. Faysal al-Husayni is a Palestinian figure and the son of 'Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni, one of the [late] Palestinian leaders. Faysal was recently in jail. He spent a long time in jail before and was taken back there again. The talk about this document is not something new. Abba Eban, former foreign minister of the Israeli entity, said in an article in LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE that Israel must not ignore the Palestinian state. He also proposed the partition plan anew.

The Palestinians who rejected this plan in the past have not done anything by way of reaction. Slogans are no longer useful and we should have corrected the mistakes that our brothers had made before. We should pursue a practical policy. Since 1974 we have been calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state but, within the Arab and international balance of power, not many people were convinced by it.

[Al-Barqawi] Strangely, there is a major difference now between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres regarding the Palestinian state document. The strange thing is that the first approves the announcement of the existence of the document, while the latter says this should not have been announced.

[Khalaf] They disagreed on whether it should have been announced. Shamir hates us and hates the Palestinian state. You know Shamir conspired against the 1947 partition plan and killed Count Bernadotte because of this resolution.

[Al-Barqawi] There is information regarding a series of Palestinian political meetings, which some people think are being made to prepare for launching Palestinian political initiatives after the PNC meeting.

[Khalaf] We have formed a political and legal committee in the PLO Central Council. This committee is chaired by Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi]. After that committee's meeting there will be intensive moves made toward the Arab and friendly states. We will then meet to fix the date and venue for the PNC session. This time the PNC will be attended by its members alone. No observers will be present.

[Al-Barqawi] Hasn't Baghdad been chosen as the venue for the PNC meeting?

[Khalaf] We proposed a number of venues. These are Algiers, Tunis, Baghdad, and Sanaa. The PNC will be convened in the country for which its circumstances allow.

[Al-Barqawi] Days ago reports were circulated regarding consultations being conducted to form a delegation to meet U.S. Middle East envoy Richard Murphy. Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo, came to the leadership in Tunis for this purpose. Has this delegation been formed yet? Is the formation of a delegation being done upon the request of the U.S. Administration?

[Khalaf] Our Egyptian brothers notified us that Murphy wants to meet a Palestinian delegation. We have a principle in dealing with others. This principle states the need to form the delegation from inside occupied Palestine and from the outside. Any separation between the inside and the outside is unacceptable.

Therefore, we always say to any American official—be it George Shultz, Richard Murphy, or any others—that any meeting will only take place if the Palestinian delegation comprises members from inside and outside. What happened is that we submitted names of persons who have previously met with Shultz, like Edward Sa'id and Nabil Sha'th, who are members of the PNC. But Murphy insisted the meeting be attended only by Palestinians from inside.

The popular uprising will force all those who do not recognize the Palestinian rights to change their attitudes. Despite the media news blackout, the uprising is growing more heroic and steadfast day by day. Some people thought King Husayn's latest measures would shake the occupied territories, but what happened was totally opposite. The whole world began to recognize there is a Palestinian people who are fighting to regain their rights. The question now is unquestionable and it is only a matter of time. [Al-Barqawi] A few days ago, Italian television said Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] replaced martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in running the uprising and the occupied territory affairs. We are interested in learning the facts about this issue.

[Khalaf] This report is absolutely untrue, because Abu Jihad's position is that of the Fatah Movement whereas Abu al-'Abbas is from the Palestine Liberation Front. Moreover, this issue is absolutely out of the question. So far, we have not chosen an official in charge of the occupied territory. However, we formed a committee supvervised by Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] comprising some PLO Executive Committee members in this regard.

[Al-Barqawi] We know the Palestinian brothers have suffered much due to the continued Iraq-Iran war. However, fighting has almost stopped after Iran accepted Resolution No 598. How do you assess this outcome and this phase?

[Khalaf] I consider ending the war as not only a victory for Iraq and the Iraqi people but also a victory for the Arab nation and all peace-loving forces. This war is among the longest wars waged by Arabs. Iraqis managed to run this battle efficiently. Indeed, occupation of Iraqi teritory means the beginning of the collapse of the whole

Arab region. This collapse may also include the Islamic world, because numerous Islamic states are governed by sectarian considerations from more than one party.

Hence, Iraq's victory is not only a victory in battle but also a victory over a current that was seeking to divide the Arab and Islamic regions into sectarian statelets. Therefore, Israel has been eager that Iraq remain preoccupied with the war and that the Arab forces be destroyed so there will be no strong Arab army in the future. We hope Iran will proceed toward peace, that its cooperation with the Arab and Islamic states be good, and that the slogan of liberating Jerusalem will be a genuine slogan.

[Al-Barqawi] Some fear the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile. Who will guarantee such a government will receive the same recognition enjoyed by the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people? What do you think of this?

[Khalaf] For this reason, we want to hold consultations with the Arab states. We will make our decision on a Palestinian government-in-exile according to the result attained. However, if we find that the Arab parties do not approve such a government, then we will courageously tell our people that it is not possible to establish a Palestinian government-in-exile at present, esepcially since such a government would not cancel the PLO, which will remain the political party and framework of this government. We now stand before a new test and we are not afraid of shouldering our responsibilities in this regard.

Provisional Government Viewed

NC1408063188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has emphasized that the PLO is contemplating the formation of a provisional government, not a government-in-exile, in the wake of King Husayn's decision to fully disengage the links with the West Bank.

In an interview published by the French weekly magazine LE JOURNAL DE DIMANCHE today, Abu Iyad explains that the PLO will convene a meeting of the Palestine National Council for this purpose at the end of August. He adds that the Palestinian state to be established will be based on UN Resolution 181, partioning Palestine into separate Arab and Jewish states. Abu Iyad says that this Palestinian state will have a fully legitimate provisional government which will have a political program entirely different from the PLO's current national document.

Favors Palestinian State

LD1408113488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1045 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Paris, Aug 14 (KUNA)—A leading PLO official said Sunday that his peace solution for the Middle East was the creation of a Palestinian state and discussion with Israel to determine the frontiers and mutual recognition between Israel and Palestine.

In an interview released by the weekly newspaper LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE, Salah Khalaf, codenamed Abu Iyad, indicated that he was prepared to hold direct talks with the Israelis, adding that the latter should not be afraid to accept the creation of a Palestinian state.

The PLO would like now to go back to the United Nations proposals of 1947 because that was the only decision of that international body giving us the right to set up a Palestinian state, said Abu Iyad, the second in command of the PLO.

The PLO, he went on, is "seriously thinking about setting up a Palestinian state with a provisional legitimate government and a political programme completely different from the current PLO national charter".

The Palestine National Council is scheduled to meet at the end of next month to discuss that issue, he indicated.

Commenting on King Husayn's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Abu Iyad said the reason behind that move was most likely the uprising in these occupied Arab lands.

"The 'intifadah'", he went on, "has largely contributed in the destruction of the administrative and economic structures King Husayn strived to establish in the last few years".

'Arafat To Proclaim Palestinian State in September

LD1408224588 Cairo MENA in English 2225 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Amman, Aug 14 (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), is expected to proclaim the independent Palestinian state during his next mid-September visit to the European parliament, said an official Palestinian source to MENA here.

The source further expected that 'Arafat would, in a speech before the European parliament, announce the promulgation of the independent Palestinian state. The source said the Palestine National Council will be discussing this topic in its forthcoming session.

PLO's Hurani Comments on Talks in Jordan

NC1408060288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2002 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Amman, 13 Aug (MENA)—A PLO delegation will arrive in Cairo from Amman tomorrow, Sunday. The delegation includes 'Abdallah Hurani and Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, members of the PLO Executive Committee, and Hani al-Hasan, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The Palestinian delegation will hold talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

In an exclusive interview with a MENA correspondent in Amman, Hurani said the talks which the delegation held with Jordanian officials were positive. He added the two sides reached a common understanding on all issues, particularly that Jordan's recent decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank not negatively affect the Palestinians living in the occupied land.

Hurani said that Jordanian officials have stressed that the Jordanian decision is to serve the Palestinian cause and made it clear that underlying Jordan's political disassociation from the occupied West Bank is the desire to transfer the Jordanian role to the PLO, thereby motivating international powers and world opinon to deal with the PLO as the party in sole charge of the Palestinian issue.

In his interview with MENA Hurani said the Palestinian delegation discussed three subjects with Jordanian officials. The first subject, he said, was the recent Jordanian measures and their effect on the occupied territories.

Next was the unity of the Palestinian people and their identification with their cause in a way that will not jeopardize the right of every Palestinian, irrespective of nationality, to return to his homeland and exercise his right to self-determination through the PLO, so as to obstruct the enemies of the Palestinians and Jordan who seek to settle the Palestinians outside their homeland or who are thinking of a homeland for the Palestinians other than Palestine.

Hurani added that the third subject discussed was the political options the PLO is considering, such as the declaration of a Palestinian state and the declaration of a Palestinian government-in-exile which would have an internationally accepted political program. He added that the delegation asked for Jordan's advice on these options.

Hurani affirmed that the available alternatives—the establishment of a provisional government or a government-in-exile or placing the occupied territories under UN supervision—are being studied. He said that the most suitable alternative will be chosen and submitted to the PNC at its next meeting.

He pointed out that if a Palestinian government-in-exile is established, it will include among its members all the Palestinian groups and representatives from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said he thought it unlikely that the Palestinian government would include dissident groups such as the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] organization. He stressed that the recently announced document on the declaration of Palestinian independence is another alternative which the PLO leadership is studying at the moment. The Palestinian official added that contacts are under way with the Arab countries to choose the headquarters of a government-in-exile, if such a decision is made.

Hurani disclosed that the Palestinian delegation also discussed with Jordanian officials the issue of Jordanian passports held by Palestinians. Both sides agreed these passports should continue to be issued and renewed and that the bridges across the Jordan River should be kept open for the sake of the Palestinians.

He added that both sides also had examined the future of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee to support the steadfastness of the citizens living in the occupied territories. Hurani stressed that the future of this committee depends upon the continuity of Arab financial support, part of which has not yet been paid by some Arab countries.

Turning to King Husayn's meeting with the Palestinian delegation, Al-Hurani revealed the Jordanian monarch had explained the objectives and dimensions of Jordan's recent decisions.

The Palestinian official said the king had stressed that these measures aim to assert the Palestinian cause and to urge the international community to deal with the PLO as the party in charge of the occupied territories.

Hurani emphasized that after 40 years of intermingling between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, it is quite difficult to separate them. Some form of cooperation between the two peoples must be found to serve the interests of the two peoples.

In this respect, the Palestinian official said we believe the best such form is the establishment of a confederal union [ittihad kunfidirali] between Jordan and an independent Palestinian state.

Hurani expressed his belief that the Arab countries will not object to the Jordanian measures but, rather, support them and give them their blessings as long as the PLO does not voice any objections.

Asked about the possible transfer of the PNC headquarters from Jordan, Hurani said: The Palestinian presence in Jordan is under discussion. He added that 'Arafat's visit to Jordan depends upon the outcome of the current talks between the PLO delegation and Jordanian officials.

PLO's 'Next Step' To Form Government-in-Exile

JN1308105588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Dubayy, 13 Aug (WAKH)—The Palestinian committee formed by the PNC to discuss the dimensions of the recent Jordanian decision to disengage the relationship with the West Bank concluded its meetings yesterday, Friday.

In a statement to today's AL-BAYAN, a committee member said the committee will submit recommendations to the PLO Executive Committee within 24 hours. The Executive Committee will hold an extraordinary meeting sometime in the next three days.

The Palestinian committee member, who asked to remain anonymous, said the committee reviewed overall Palestinian developments, particularly after the Jordanian decision, which the committee considered a frank Jordanian recognition of the sovereignty of the Palestinian people over their homeland.

The Palestinian official affirmed the PLO's next step will be to declare a government-in-exile to fill the political and legal vacuum in the West Bank.

He said: This trend is strong, particularly after we complete the necessary studies and consultations among national parties and sisterly and friendly countries to guarantee the recognition of this government and to back its subsequent steps.

PNC Session Scheduled for Algiers 20 Sep

LD1408121588 Kuwait KUNA in English 0918 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Sharjah, Aug 14 (KUNA)—The Palestine National Council (PNC) extraordinary session is to be held in Algiers September 20, a local paper said here Sunday.

Daily 'AL-KHALIJ' quoted well informed Palestinian sources as saying that the date was fixed during PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's recent talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

Meanwhile, sources of the PLO delegation in Amman told the paper that the organization asked Jordan to freeze the Jordanian procedures cutting legal and administrative ties with the West Bank for a month until the PNC extraordinary session is held and appropriate decisions related to the issue are passed.

PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani was quoted by the paper as saying that Jordanian passport holders in the West Bank will retain them according to King Husayn's latest assurances.

He confirmed the PLO's approval of a confederation between Jordan and the independent Palestinian state immediately after its creation.

Gaza Official on Talks With Richard Murphy

NC1408130088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—Fayiz Abu Rahmah, head of the Bar Association in the Gaza Strip, has revealed that the U.S. insistence on rejecting two members of the delegation nominated by the PLO to meet with Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs, in Cairo last week aborted the efforts that were made to hold such a meeting.

Abu Rahman, who was a member of the delegation, has told MENA that the United States had insisted on the removal of Nabil Sha'th, PNC member and an adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, and PLO member Akram Haniyah. At the same time, the United States agreed to allow Murphy to meet with PNC members Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu Lughod, as well as Hanna Sinyurah, editor of the AL-FAJR newspaper, which is published in the occupied territories.

He added Egypt had exerted intensive efforts for this meeting to convene. Abu Rahmah noted that U.S. intransigence and the PLO's insistence that the meeting would not be held unless Murphy met with all of the members of the Palestinian delegation ultimately led to the failure of these efforts.

Regarding the dimensions of the Jordanian king's severance of administrative and legal links with the West Bank, Fayiz Abu Rahmah declared that the Jordanian decision is a result of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

He added the decision eliminates the issue of duality with regard to the Palestinian people's representation, as the PLO has now truly become the sole legitimate representative of this people. Anyone desiring to deal with or negotiate on the Palestinians' fate must deal with the PLO only.

Abu Rahmah added: Despite the positive aspect of the decision, negative aspects exist that will lead to a vacuum until a financial and administrative presence for the PLO is found. He stressed that the citizens in the West Bank will shoulder their burdens with open hearts despite the financial hardships which will arise as a result of the decision to stop paying their salaries. Abu Rahmah disclosed there had been no prior consultations with the PLO on the decision.

He emphasized in this connection that there should have been coordination between Jordan and the PLO so that the latter could have benefited from Jordan's financial and administrative presence inside the occupied territories until alternative channels had been found.

Discussing the possibility of establishing a Palestinian government-in-exile, Fayiz Abu Rahmah said the Jordanian decision had created a desire within the PLO to form such a government. He noted, however, this trend cannot be crystallized until after the PNC meeting next month. A study prepared by a special Palestinian committee formed by the Palestinian Central Council to study the issue of the Palestinian government will be debated at the PNC meeting, according to Abu Rahmah.

He declared support for the establishment of such a government if it would pursue a course different from that pursued by the PLO, so it would be more flexible and have different tasks to avoid the government and the PLO from playing a dual role.

Abu Rahmah said if such a government were set up, its task would be to reach a settlement of the Palestinian problem through an international peace conference. He stressed there should be sufficient guarantees for the success of such a government, particularly in light of our bitter experience with the government of all Palestine.

He predicted that most of the countries which recognize the PLO will recognize this government. He also noted the possibility that a federal union could be established between the Palestinian state and Jordan.

Algeria

Algiers To Host PNC Session in September

JN1208185688 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Aug

[Text] The PNC will hold its next extraordinary session in the Algerian capital during September to discuss the recent Jordanian decision on the West Bank and its consequences on the Palestinian cause.

An official Palestinian source in Cairo has stated that this was agreed upon in a meeting between Palestinian leaders brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

In his statement, which was carried by MENA, the source said that the Algerian president has issued his orders and instructions to prepare for the meetings of this extraordinary session.

Reports were circulated earlier that the extraordinary session would be held in Baghdad.

Bendjedid Receives Libyan Envoy on Arab Union

LD1408194488 Tripoli JANA in English 1645 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 14, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—President Chadli Bendjedid this afternoon received the secretary resident of Great Jamahiryah to Morocco.

The secretary delivered, during this meeting, to President Chadli Bendjedid the project of the Arab union proposed by the leader of the revolution to the Arab heads of state, monarchs and emirs at the Arab emergency summit held in Algiers.

Chad

OAU To Arrange Libyan Release of 355 Prisoners

LD1608090588 Paris Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Three hundred and fifty-five Chadian prisoners will be released by Libya shortly under the auspices of the OAU. The secretary general of the pan-African organization, Ide Oumarou, announced this exclusively on RFI [Radio France International] this morning.

Egypt

Reportage on Visit by PLO Delegation to Cairo

Led by Mahmud 'Abbas

NC1508143188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—A Palestinian delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, arrived in Cairo from Amman this afternoon.

The delegation also includes Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani and Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

During its 4-day visit to Egypt the Palestinian delegation is scheduled to meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member and the delegation's spokesman, has stated that the delegation went to Jordan to discuss the recent Jordanian decisions and ensure that they will positively serve the Palestinian cause and strengthen moves by the PLO, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in the international arena to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the issue.

Hurani said the results achieved ensure that the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories will not be harmed and that the facilities provided to this people in various fields will continue.

Hurani added that the discussions he will hold in Cairo will center on the situation resulting from the recent developments which made the PLO the sole representative of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian option the only option. He explained that the PLO will conduct studies to strengthen this role.

Hurani went on to say the Palestinian delegation came to Cairo to hold consultations on the steps the PLO will take during the coming stage. He expressed his hope that Jordan's disengagement with the West Bank will serve the Palestinian cause.

Regarding the Gaza Strip, Hurani emphasized that there has been no problem regarding Gaza, which was under Egyptian administration but did not become part of Egypt.

He added that the PLO is responsible for maintaining the Palestinian identity of Gaza. He explained that the PLO will continue to shoulder its responsibilities in Gaza, with the help of the Arab brothers and Egypt.

Concluding, Hurani said that before contemplating the proclamation of a Palestinian government-in-exile it is essential to contemplate the political program of this government to present it to the world acceptably and properly.

Talks Begin

NC1508183988 Cairo MENA in English 1803 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, Aug. 15—(MENA)—Egyptian-Palestinian talks opened here tonight under Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu Mazin), member of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The meeting covered PLO positions on developments in the wake of Jordanian King Husayn's decision to dismantle the Jordan-occupied [word indistinct] administrative connection, results of the recent Amman PLO-Jordan meetings and importance of Jordan-PLO coordination to promote the peace process.

The Palestinian delegation comprises PLO executives 'Abdallah Hurani and Jamal al-Surani together with Hani al-Hasan, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's advisor; Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, PLO charge d'affaires here.

The Egyptian delegation comprises Ambassadors 'Amr Musa, Muhab Muqbil and Husayn Hassunah, Ambassador Mahmud Jum'ah, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Palestine Department, together with Minister Plenipotentiary Mustafa 'Abd al-'Aziz and Counselor Hilmi Badir.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, first foreign under secretary and director of the Presidential Political Affairs Office, conferred for nearly sixty minutes tonight with the Palestinian delegation on the latest situation and Palestinian developments.

Talks 'Very Positive'

NC1508200188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that his talks tonight with a PLO delegation were a good opportunity to be briefed on the results of the talks the Palestinians held with the brothers in Jordan.

In a statement following his round of talks with the Palestinian delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the talks were very positive and that a spirit of mutual confidence, appreciation of stands, and the desire to continue the consultations and coordination prevailed.

He added that President Husni Mubarak will receive the Palestinian delegation tomorrow, Tuesday.

The Egyptian official also said that consultations need to continue on the changes in the Palestinian arena in order to give an impetus to the peace process and establish the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, our objective.

Concluding, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the talks with the Palestinian delegation will continue with the aim of exchanging consultations and views to benefit the fraternal Palestinian people.

Hurani on 'Abd al-Majid Meeting

NC1508202988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has expressed his appreciation for the support Egypt has extended and is extending regarding the Palestinian question. He pointed out that Egypt places all its political resources at the service of the PLO and the Palestinian question.

In a statement following the Palestinian delegation's meeting tonight with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Hurani said:

Egypt is a great sister and we must benefit from her experience and advice regarding the political options we are now discussing and the new developments and conditions following the administrative and legal disengagement between Jordan and the occupied West Bank.

Hurani added that the Jordanian decision on the West Bank constitutes a test of the PLO's qualifications, seriousness, and responsibility in the current stage. Therefore, he added, our decisions must be based on Egypt's experience and advice concerning political options.

Hurani further said that the establishment of a Palestinian state, a provisional government, and the political program for this government are now under discussion. We seek, he added, a realistic program acceptable to all parties.

Regarding the Palestinian delegation's recent discussions in Jordan, Hurani said that these were necessary in order to place the Jordanian decision on the West Bank in the right context to serve the Palestinian cause and the PLO and to deal with any negative consequences of this decision so as not to affect the daily lives of those in the occupied territories.

Hurani said that an agreement had been reached between the PLO and Jordan to provide all facilities to the inhabitants of the occupied territories so as not to affect their daily lives.

Hurani expressed hope that confident relations will develop between the PLO and Jordan to serve the interests of both peoples.

In conclusion, Hurani pointed out that several other meetings will be held between the Palestinian delegation and Dr 'Abd al-Majid.

Cairo To Urge United States-PLO Dialogue

PM1608082988 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Aug 88 pp 1,2

[Mahmud Bakri report: "After King Husayn's Decision, a New Egyptian Initiative"]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that the Egyptian Government will launch a new initiative during U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's visit to Cairo which begins today. The new Egyptian initiative, coming on the heels of Jordan's decision to sever all administrative and legal links with the West Bank, contains several fundamental important points, including the following:

1. There is need for a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue with the Palestinian side representated by people chosen by the PLO from its own ranks or from independent Palestinian figures.

2. The dialogue should be followed by a meeting between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to arrive at an acceptable formula that would include U.S. recognition of the PLO.

3. The United States should play the part of mediator between the PLO and Israel to pave the way for a mutual agreement providing for PLO recognition of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in return for Israel's recognition of the PLO and of the Palestinian people's rights.

Richard Murphy had discussed with some Israeli and Arab officials the situation in the region following King Husayn's severance of all legal and administrative links with the West Bank.

Murphy told these officials that the United States was unhappy about Jordan's decision which cancels out the Shultz initiative from the list of peace plans for the region.

The U.S. envoy also emphasized that the U.S. Administration would not hold direct negotiations with the PLO unless the latter agrees to stop acts of violence against Israel inside [the occupied territories] and accepts Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

AL-SHA'B has learned that President Mubarak last week sent a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan urging him to agree to a U.S. dialogue with some Palestinian figures who arrived in Cairo recently, as a prelude to a dialogue with the PLO.

Number of Riot Detainees Reported as 111

NC1508123288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—The Public Prosecutor's Office has decided to hand over to their parents 31 minors arrested during the riots in the 'Ayn Shams area last Friday. It also decided to release 14 from among the injured in hospitals who were arrested immediately after the incidents.

Another decision involved the continued detention of 51 other defendants for another 15 days to continue the investigation into the case. Thus, the detained persons number 111.

The charges against them include illegal assembly, intent to kill, destruction of public property, and resisting the authorities.

During the coming few days the Public Prosecutor's Office will continue its investigation and hear the statements of police officers and personnel who took control of the situation and dealt with the defendants at the scene of the riots.

Cabinet Meets, Reviews Recent Developments

NC1608123988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The cabinet met under Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi today and discussed recent developments, including the changes affecting the Palestinian issue in light of Jordan's decision.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. He said that the cabinet reviewed the positive results of the Jordanian-Palestinian consultations and also the ideas proposed by the Palestinian side. He added that these consultations are being discussed with the Palestinian delegation currently in Egypt.

The information minister said that the cabinet also reviewed the UN measures to implement the cease-fire agreement between Iraq and Iran, the continuing contacts between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Husni Mubarak, and Egypt's clear stand on the need to bring about a serious and lasting peace between the two Islamic countries.

He added: The cabinet reviewed a report on the Afghan situation and Egypt's hope of a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. In this respect, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, denied the reports disseminated abroad that Egypt has recently supplied the Afghan rebels with a number of Egyptian missiles. He stressed that Egypt is enthusiastic about achieving peace, stability, and unity in Afghanistan.

Regarding the situation in Sudan, the information minister said that Dr 'Atif Sidqi explained to the cabinet the immediate steps taken by Egypt to support the sons of fraternal Sudan in confronting the floods. He noted that contacts are continuing with the Sudanese Government to follow up and overcome the situation.

Regarding domestic issues, interior Minister Zaki Badr reviewed the measures taken by the security organs from the moment the three prisoners escaped from prison until they were located and apprehended. He also reported the death of two of these prisoners after resisting the security organs.

The interior minister also briefed the cabinet on the disturbances in the 'Ayn Shams area by members of the extremist groups in that area and outside it. He also reviewed the self-restraint exercised by the security organs, despite the injuries of a number of policemen, and the measures taken to apprehend the defendants and hand them over to the investigative organs.

The information minister said that the cabinet stressed that any attempt to disrupt security or violate laws will be met firmly, strongly, and immediately. The interior minister also noted in his report the success of the security organs in foiling attempts to smuggle large quantities of drugs into Egypt in the past few days.

The information minister added that the cabinet reviewed the procedures for control of markets in Cairo and the governorates. The cabinet approved a number of projects, including the draft agreement between Egypt and Canada to import 75,000 tons of railroad track at a cost of $36 million, to be used for replacement and renovation projects.

The cabinet also agreed to split up the Delta Electricity Distribution Company into two companies, with the aim of improving services and performance efficiency.

The cabinet also agreed to set up a new company to produce central telephone systems with a capacity of more than 5,000 lines and to include the Technological Development and Planning Center as part of the Cairo University projects.

Libya

Iranian Foreign Minister Departs After Talks

LD1508111488 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1056 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli 15 Aug (JANA)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this morning following a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Dr Velayati made a statement to JANA prior to his departure in which he indicated that his talks in the Jamahiriyah revolved around peace in the region in light of accepting the resolution to end the war and consolidating bilateral relations.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives PLO Chairman 'Arafat

LD1508200088 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Brother Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat arrived at Tripoli International Airport this morning on a visit to the Greater Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Editor Denounces U.S. Aid Offer to Sudan

LD1508135388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1055 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Aug (JANA)—The U.S. Administration has circulated to news media a news item to the effect that it has decided to offer $1 million to Sudan to deal with the natural disaster currently besetting the Sudanese people.

Commenting on this, JANA's Arab affairs editor says: What is bizarre in this matter is that the U.S. Administration, which considers itself a superpower, engages in a media effort and a distinctive vocal uproar to affirm that it has donated this tiny amount of money to a people beset by a natural disaster that has cost the lives of hundreds of people, and made homeless dozens of thousands of the sons of our people in Sudan.

This situation can be regarded only as a naive attempt and an exposed maneuver on the part of the U.S. Administration to mislead people. The administration wants to give the appearance of being humanitarian, whereas it is in fact far from this. Such an attempt has been exposed in more than one political and social case here and there. It is a state that, at this age and time, refuses to undertake any good or humanitarian deed.

In this respect, their true character shines through their attempt at taking on someone else's nature, as the U.S. hotbed of evil has not been able to guarantee a just and virtuous life even for its own citizens inside the United States where more than 13 million Americans live in cellars, begging in the streets of U.S. towns, seeking an honorable life.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Administration has made available the sum of $4 billion to support the Zionist entity, to enable it to continue to cruelly mistreat the Arab Palestinian people. It has also backed by political endeavor the entrenchment of the occupation of Palestine by Zionist gangs. For, how can an open human mind accept the U.S. claim that it has offered the sum of $1 million to the Sudanese people, that is the equivalent of 300,000 Arab Libyan dinars, in a disaster that has hit more than 25 million people?

Our Arab revolutionary people in fraternal Sudan, with all its sections, is far bigger than all the money of the United States, and it is capable, by its history of struggle and revolutionary courage, of throwing back this tiny amount in the face of the U.S. Administration of brokerage and blackmail, adding it to the ensemble of misfortunes left over by toppled Numayri's era.

The JANA Arab affairs editor further says: The U.S. Administration must realize that people's revolutionary awareness has attained, from the social point of view, a high degree of maturity which can competently differentiate between right and wrong and between the truth represented by the will of the masses and the methods of U.S. trickeries vis-a-vis the people.

Our kinfolk in fraternal Sudan, through their own will, and with the support of their Arab brothers from the ocean to the Gulf, can overcome this ideal besetting this part of our greater Arab homeland.

The editor affirms that the false U.S. attitude to the Arab people in Sudan puts before the whole Arab nation the one truth that we must fully grasp: Our fundamental effort must be centered on persistent action to realize our great hope for Arab unity which is likely to bring together all the energies and potentials of this valiant nation in facing all the current problems, at this time of fragmentation and dispersion.

Realizing the objective of unity will bring about good and prosperity to the sons of our nation. It will also entrench an economic, social, and political environment for our pan-Arab existence at this time of economic and political blocs.

The editor concludes by saying: When we look with scrutiny and a responsible eye to the economic capabilities and natural resources of our nation we arrive at a decisive and clear result: We can do without U.S. dollars behind which hide techniques of blackmail, humiliation, and enslavement, and which finally result in subservience and subjugation to the United States.

Sudan

Aid Distribution, More Threats of Floods Noted

NC1408132588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 14 Aug (MENA)—[Passage omitted] Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, Sudanese minister of finance and chairman of the Higher Ministerial Committee for Relief, has announced that 800 tons of foodstuffs and aid have been received from fraternal and friendly countries so far. He added that this aid is now being distributed in the areas afflicted by the floods.

He admitted to delays in the distribution of the aid, which he attributed to the difficulty of moving from one area to another and the high number of those affected by the floods, which has reached 1.5 million persons.

Speaking at a news conference in Khartoum which was attended by foreign correspondents who have come to the Sudanese capital from Nairobi and European capitals, Dr Nur al-Da'im said that public services have been affected by the catastrophe, particularly the electricity and transport sectors, thus delaying the distribution of aid to the victims.

He added that Sudan is facing another danger; namely, the invasion of locusts, particularly in the western provinces. The Sudanese minister stressed that Sudan also faces the real danger of the Nile flooding, with the danger spot lying between the town of Sinjah in the Central Province, 500 km from Khartoum, and the capital itself, where the island of Tuti faces the danger of being completely submerged under water.

He said the citizens are fully aware of the problem and that the political parties and popular organizations have been fully mobilized to confront these dangers.

At his news conference, Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im disclosed that 58 people have been killed and 211 injured in Khartoum as a result of the floods. He added that tens of thousands of homes have been demolished, 29 schools have been damaged, in addition to 98 schools which could collapse at any moment.

In his report, Dr Nur al-Da'im noted that a similar level of casualties had been sustained in Kordofan as well as in the central and eastern provinces.

Dr Nur al-Daim thanked the fraternal and friendly countries which have provided assistance to Sudan. He pointed out that an agreement has been signed with the Italian Government for the settlement of refugees near Khartoum.

Meanwhile, foreign journalists' questions revolved around the improper distribution of relief aid among the victims.

However, the Sudanese officials attending the news conference, who are members of the Higher Ministerial Committee, described such reports as groundless, asserting that such stories are usually disseminated under such circumstances.

The officials reiterated that the relief commodities are being distributed among the needy. These officials disclosed that the Ministry of Information has prepared a program for the journalists to tour the areas where relief work is taking place. [passage omitted]

Nile Waters Hit Highest Level in Khartoum

NC1508154788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Aug (MENA)—The Nile River in Khartoum reached its highest level today: 16.65 meters, higher than in 1946 when Sudan witnessed the highest flooding of the Nile.

The flooding threatens entire quarters in areas near the White and Blue Niles in the Sudanese capital. Local authorities and citizens are trying to avert flooding by erecting bridges and barriers.

This is happening at a time when the Nile waters have actually begun encroaching on houses and installations on the riverbank. Citizens have begun evacuating their houses and moving their belongings as a precaution.

An official source at the Sudanese Irrigation Ministry has stated that the new level of the Nile is thought to portend new disasters.

Eyewitnesses in the Sudanese capital have declared that the floodwaters have destroyed 500 houses and displaced thousands of families.

Telephone lines in Khartoum were disrupted for several hours because of a cut in electric power to the main cables.

The capital is still suffering from shortages in foodstuffs and bread and from cuts in the power supply, which is fed irregularly at 25 percent of total capacity.

Combined SPLA Forces Ambush 'Enemy' Convoys

EA1508160088 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Combined SPLA forces in Waw, comprising units of the Bee, Fire, and Shark Battalions, under the direct command of the alternate Commander Edward Achunyi Dao and the overall command of Commander Daniel Aweid Akuot and alternate Commander Bona Bang Dhol, the Lakes zonal commander, intercepted an enemy convoy on the Waw-Gogrial road resulting into a series of attacks, raids, and shelling on the enemy troops for nights and days, starting from 26th July to 4th August 1988 in Marial Baia, (Parkweny), and Wangkai respectively.

Correspondent for the Radio SPLA in Bahr al-Ghazal says that the enemy sustained heavy casualties in both men and materials in the 9 days of consecutive operations.

More than 45 enemy soldiers were killed and 60 were injured, among the dead were two senior officers, one whom was identified as the commander of the convoy, Colonel Idris Bashir.

Three vehicles and one Challenger tank were destroyed, the remnants ran in complete disarray to Gogrial. [passage omitted]

A combined SPLA force under the direct command of Captain Peter Manyang Chikom and the overall command of Commander Salva Kiir Mayor Dit, successfully ambushed an enemy convoy between (Berika) and Sali al-Arab in the southern Blue Nile (area) on 22nd July 1988, killing five and wounding many others.

Correspondent says that the convoy was escorting food and other items. Two tractors making up the convoy were destroyed. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Federation Plan

LD1608015688 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Tunis, 15 August, JANA—President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this afternoon received the brother delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah to (?the Arab League).

During the audience, which was attended by brother Hedi Baccouche, the Tunisian prime minister, the brother delegate handed President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali the scheme for Arab federation that was proposed by the brother leader of the revolution to Arab presidents and monarchs during the emergency Arab summit conference that was held in Algiers.

Speaks With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1608020588 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] A telephone call took place yesterday [15 August] evening between President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, concerning bilateral relations and the situation in the area.

During his reception yesterday afternoon of Muhammad al-Zuwayy, the special envoy of Col al-Qadhdhafi, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received a letter from the leader of the Libyan revolution.

Following the audience, which was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, the Libyan envoy said this letter comes in the context of an Arab mission entrusted by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to some Libyan officials in various parts of the Arab homeland to consult about the current events in the Arab homeland, especially in Palestine.

He said this task concerns coordinating a response to the U.S.-supported Zionist challenge, pointing out the the leader of the Libyan revolution considers it necessary to

confront this challenge by establishing an Arab federation which would guarantee the mobilization of the capabilities of the Arab homeland, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf.

This would enable the Arabs to confront the Zionist enemy, which despises the Arab will, and to take a rejectionist stance, thus compelling the United States to reconsider its pro-Zionist enemy policy.

The Libyan envoy said that, on this occasion, he handed the president of the Republic the documents of the Arab federation proposals.

President Meets French Defense Minister

LD1608224988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali yesterday [15 August] evening at the Republican Palace in Carthage received the French defense minister, who said the talks dealt with the international situation and prospects for the Greater Arab Maghreb in particular.

Regarding the latter he said: We hope that it will witness a positive development.

The French minister praised the new situation in Tunisia and the means adopted by our country to deal with the region's problems for the sake of stability, moderation, and peace.

He said Tunisia was a very important country and added that France would be happy to host President Ben Ali in the near future.

He pointed out that the visit would be an opportunity to consolidate long-established ties of cooperation and sincere friendship between the two peoples.

The meeting was attended by the general secretary of national defense, Abdallah Kallel, and the two countries' ambassadors.

Western Sahara

Polisario Front Requests Changes to UN Proposal

LD1608102388 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The Polisario Front would like some amendments to be introduced to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's proposals on settling the Western Sahara conflict.

The Polisario Front finds the spirit of the UN peace plan acceptable, but believes some amendments concerning format are necessary. This was stated by Polisario Front Executive Committee member Bachir Mustapha Seyyed.

At a dinner meeting with the national press last Sunday, the Saharan official expressed some reservations regarding the peace plan the UN secretary general proposed to the Polisario Front and Morocco to settle the Western Sahara conflict.

Mr Bachir Mustapha Seyyed stressed the need to introduce some amendments to the UN peace plan, but said the Polisario Front would be the first to implement Mr Perez de Cuellar's proposals.

The Polisario Front Executive Committee member indicated that these amendments concern a number of areas, particularly the issues of direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front, the problem arising from the presence of the Moroccan Administration and Army, and also the legitimacy of Moroccan laws in Western Sahara.

The Saharan official reiterated that the ideal solution to bring the views of Morocco and the Polisario Front closer together is to begin direct negotiation.

In this connection, he said that the king of Morocco is a wise man who does not refuse dialogue.

In its first reaction, the Polisario Front expressed its reservation with some parts of the peace plan proposed by the UN secretary general.

After Mr Perez de Cuellar's proposals were received and studied, Mr Bechir Mustapha Seyyed, the head of the Saharan delegation, indicated that the peace plan is slightly far off from UN and OAU Resolutions 427 and 104.

In this connection, the Saharan official stressed the need for the withdrawal of the Moroccan Administration and forces, holding direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front, and organizing a genuine referrendum on the unconditional self-determination of the Saharan people to guarantee a just and lasting solution to the Western Sahara conflict.

Kuwait

Armed Forces Chief of Staff To Visit USSR

LD1608090888 Kuwait KUNA in English 0754 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 16 (KUNA)—Chief of Staff of Kuwaiti Armed Forces Major General Mazyad al-Sani' will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union on August 29, official Defense Ministry sources said Tuesday.

The sources told KUNA that Al-Sani' will head his country's high ranking military delegation of different branches of the Armed Forces and he will confer with his Soviet counterpart on cooperation between the two countries in all military fields.

Al-Sani' and the accompanying delegates will get acquainted on most advanced Soviet armaments the sources pointed out.

The visit comes after Defense Ministries of the two countries signed an agreement two months ago to provide Kuwait with military equipment.

Minister of Defense Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad had announced that the equipment included 254 personel carriers.

The visit also takes place at a time when the American administration is still debating an order from Kuwait to buy warplanes and missiles worth about two billion dollars.

Kuwait has always followed an independent policy in its relations with the superpowers and in acquiring its defence needs.

PDRY

Union Affairs Minister Departs for Sanaa

EA1508160188 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit, member of the Central Committee and minister of state for union affairs, left for Sanaa on a visit to the northern part of the homeland.

Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit said in a statement to ANA that he was carrying a verbal message from Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, to his brother Colonel 'Ali Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, about joint work between the two parts of the homeland and the national issues related to steps towards unification and coordination on Arab and international issues which concern them.

Yemen Arab Republic

PDRY State Minister Arrvies With Letter

JN1508133888 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit, state minister for union affairs in the southern part of the homeland, has arrived in the country. He is carrying a letter from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland, to his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on unity coordination and Arab and world developments.

Brother Rashid told SABA' he will meet with Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, state minister for unity affairs and Standing Committee member, to discuss measures toward implementing unity agreements.

On hand to welcome him were Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi and Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Ammari, chief of the unity affairs bureau.

King Husayn Arrives, Meets With President

JN1508194888 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1907 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] A round of offiical talks between Jordan and Iraq was held in Baghdad this evening. During the talks, the Iraqi side was headed by President leader Saddam Husayn, while the fraternal Jordanian side was headed by His Majesty Jordanian King Husayn ibn Talal.

His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal congratulated President leader Saddam Husayn on the great victory—a victory for the entire Arab nation. He stressed that Iraq's victory will reflect very positively on the Arab nation's present and future and will strengthen its ability to confront the challenges in its legitimate defense of its existence, security, and sovereignty.

President Saddam Husayn praised the pan-Arab stand of Jordan—king, government, and people—and its firm support for its brothers in Iraq in order to promote the genuine pan-Arab ties and strengthen relations among the sons of the Arab nation.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed forces and Defense minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, information and culture minister and head of the mission of honor accompanying his majesty the king; Ahmad Husayn, head of the Presidential Office; Brigadier General Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization; the president's secretary; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

The talks were attended on the fraternal Jordanian side by His Highness 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, His Highness Prince Faysal ibn al-Husayn, His Highness Prince Talal ibn Muhammad, His Highness Prince Ghazi ibn Muhammad, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Army Command Staff Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, Assistant Chief of Staff for Planning and Organization Staff Major General Fawzi 'Ubaydat, and the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn held a great dinner banquet in honor of His Majesty Jordanian King Husayn ibn Talal. The members of the two delegations attended.

'Uday Saddam Husayn, head of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee and head of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Youths and Sports Ministerial Council; Qusay Saddam Husayn; the ministers; and a number of state officials also attended the banquet.

Joint Meetings With Sri Lankan Committee Begin

JN1508141288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—Meetings of the third session of the Iraqi-Sri Lankan joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation began here today.

The meetings were chaired on the Iraqi side by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and on the Sri Lankan side by Finance and Planning Minister Naina Marikkar.

They discussed ways to enhance economic cooperation between the two countries, exchange export commodities, set up trade fairs, and expand training opportunities between them.

The meetings were attended on both sides by delegates from the Ministries of Trade, Transportation, Communications, Oil, Finance, Planning, Industry, and Military Industrialization.

It is noteworthy that the second session of meetings was held in Kuala Lumpur in January 1987.

Two Pilots Killed in Midair F-15 Collision

TA1608042988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Two Israel Air Force pilots have been killed in a midair collision between their F-15 fighter planes. The IDF spokesman says the collision took place yesterday morning during a training exercise. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

The pilots, Lieutenant Colonel Ran Kuller, aged 36 of Kibbutz Kefar Gil'adi, and Major Ehud Folk, aged 33 of Merhavya, will be buried later today. The Israel Air Force commander, Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, has appointed a commission of inquiry to investigate the accident.

Villagers at Bani Na'im near Hebron said the planes crashed just a few kilometers from the village. Three local girls aged 8 to 12 were reportedly hurt by pieces of the planes which fell to earth. One of the girls was taken to hospital in Jerusalem.

Israel Air Force aviation accidents have been on a sharp decline and although figures are not made public, the number of accidents last year is said to have been the lowest in 10 years.

It is not at all clear what may have led to yesterday's fatal collision. Both pilots were experienced airmen with outstanding records. Eyewitnesses said that while the two planes were flying in parallel, their wing tips touched.

The planes veered into each other and then exploded. Bedouin on the ground below said pieces of wreckage fell onto their tents, and three women were lightly hurt.

The F-15 is considered to be the leading air-to-air fighter in the world and is built to carry out extreme maneuvers at high speeds. It has been the frontline fighter of the Israel Air Force since the late 1970's, and a number of advanced models are now being acquired from the United States.

Lt Col Ran Kuller will be buried this evening at the Qiryat Sha'ul military cemetery in Tel Aviv. Maj Ehud Folk will be buried this afternoon at the cemetery at Moshav Merhavya in the Yizre'el Valley.

Shamir: Salah Khalaf Plans Elimination 'by Stages'

TA1508171088 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by unidentified correspondent; time and place not given—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Correspondent] What is your reaction to the remarks of Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] regarding the establishment of a provisional Palestinian government which will recognize Israel?

[Shamir] First of all, it should be noted that rather than promote peace, ideas like this remove it even further. We all know that this subject of a Palestinian government or a Palestinian state is rejected by every element in Israel. Raising the issue creates and exacerbates confrontations and removes the peace. This is not the path to peace.

As for the concept itself, we have known Abu Iyad for a long time. He is one of the fathers of the PLO's theory of stages as it was adopted years ago—10 or more years ago. The theory says that to eliminate the State of Israel—this being the goal—steps should be taken in two stages:

Stage 1—the establishment of a Palestinian state in the 1967 boundaries; Stage 2—war will be pursued until Israel is eliminated and the so-called democratic, secular state is established. What Abu Iyad is proposing is the exact replica of this model: the elimination of the State of Israel by stages. Can any person be as naive as to believe that anyone in Israel will accept this concept?

On Peace Negotiations

TA1408044488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Speaking in Jerusalem last night, Prime Minister Shamir said that the actions of King Husayn in separating his kingdom from the territories had not changed anything of substance in the situation.

[Begin Shamir recording] Judaea and Samaria were occupied by military aggression and they were never a recognized part of the Kingdom of Jordan. Nevertheless, there are Palestinian Arabs living on both sides of the River Jordan, and any viable solution must take this reality into consideration. [applause]

That is why we have accepted and remained committed to peace negotiations with representatives of both Jordan and the Palestinian Arabs on the basis of the Camp David accords. [applause]

The logic behind these accords remains unassailable. They hold out the prospect of peace with Jordan and coexistence with the Palestinian Arabs, while recognizing the close links between the population on both sides of the river. [end recording]

On the recent arms deals between the West and Arab countries, the prime minister said Israel was concerned if the quantities supplied were added to those coming from the Soviet Union and elsewhere. We cannot possibly compete in this kind of an arms race, he said.

[Begin Shamir recording] There is no point in speculating about the future intentions of one Arab country or another. We have the paramount duty to ensure that Israel will always be strong enough to deter aggression and to prevent war. [applause]

We cannot compete in numbers, and must therefore maintain the quality edge, which is based on the level of education of the manpower in the Israel Defense Forces, and security services, and in the industries, that they put us among the leaders of technology in the world. [end recording]

Prime Minister Shamir was speaking at the closing session of the national convention of the Israel Bonds organization.

Labor Party Platform Becomes 'More Dovish'

TA1508163188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The Labor Party has decided to change its political platform in the wake of King Husayn's speech. The meeting of the party's political platform committee ended a few minutes ago.

It was in fact decided in the meeting to accept the Yariv-Shemtov formula [a three-clause formula drawn up by the Labor Party in the early 1970's, specifying the conditions the PLO has to meet before Israel will speak with it, which include recognition of the State of Israel and renunciation of the violence called for in the Palestinian Charter].

The committee decided that if negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is impossible, the Labor Party will be prepared to talk with any Palestinians in order to reach a peace agreement, provided they accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and express opposition to terrorism.

To reach an interim arrangement, the Labor Party is prepared to negotiate with the Palestinian residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, even if they are identified with the PLO.

Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that with this decision the Labor Party's platform has become more dovish in nature. The political platform is still pending the Labor Party Central Committee's approval, but it is not expected to meet with any opposition there.

Frayj 'Unreservedly' Supports Khalaf Statements

TA1508113288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj says he unreservedly supports the ideas raised by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] regarding the amendment of the Palestinian Covenant and mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a spoke to Ilyas Frayj.

[Begin Barne'a recording] Ilyas Frayj unreservedly supports Abu Iyad's statements about the amendment of the Palestinian Covenant, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state whose boundaries would be set in negotiations with Israel, and mutual recognition between that state and Israel.

[Frayj speaks in Arabic followed by correspondent's translation] I have not seen the entire statement, Frayj says, but from what I read in the Arab papers I can say that I wholly support it. Peace must be established between Jews and Arabs in this holy land. Both Jews and Arabs are entitled to enjoy the right to self-determination and to govern themselves by themselves. Both peoples are entitled to enjoy equal rights and obligations and live in good-neighborly relations. The only solution is to have two states alongside each other, one Israeli and one Palestinian, with recognized boundaries.

Like many public figures in the territories, Ilyas Frayj is very cautious in his reaction to King Husayn's moves and the decisions the PLO must adopt in their wake. However, while people such as Rashad al-Shawwa of Gaza prefer to keep silent because they realize sensitivities are running high these days, Ilyas Frayj talks about the need to proceed with caution and carefully chooses his words.

[Frayj speaks in Arabic followed by correspondent's translation] Given the situation created as a result of the Jordanian moves, one must exercise wisdom and patience, because sooner or later it will become clear that the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples are brothers who share a common destiny and future. Any emotional reaction to the Jordanian measures would harm both sides, Frayj says, and that is why I suggest that we exercise utmost restraint and caution in dealing with this sensitive matter between two brothers.

Frayj refused to comment on the proposals for the establishment of a Palestinian provisional government or a government-in-exile, saying:

I will state my opinion after the PNC has passed its decisions in Algiers next month. [end recording]

PLO's Al-Sus: Khalaf 'Just Thinking Aloud'

TA1608091088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Aug 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Michel Zlotowski, Wolf Blitzer, Menahem Shalev, and Andy Court]

[Excerpts] PLO leader Abu Iyad's [Salah Khalaf's] call for mutual Israel-PLO recognition was dismissed yesterday by Prime Minister Shamir as "just another scheme to destroy Israel," by Foreign Minister Peres as little more than "crossword puzzle language," and by PLO representative Ibrahim al-Sus as Abu Iyad's personal "thinking aloud." [passage omitted]

The PLO's representative in Paris told THE POST that Abu Iyad's statement did not reflect the position of the organization. "He was just thinking aloud," said Ibrahim al-Sus.

He added that Yasir 'Arafat and Abu Iyad have a common aim, the creation of a Palestinian state and the achievement of peace with Israel, but "their strategies are different. They don't have the same vision of things. They complement each other."

The Palestinians are still waiting for some "positive" move from any "responsible Israeli leader," he said.

"What Abu Iyad, a prominent leader, said to the Israelis, no Israeli leader, not even Peres, would dare to say to the Palestinians," Al-Sus charged. "Nobody in Israel can still seriously say 'There are no Palestinian interlocutors.' You Israelis just don't want to see them. We PLO are ready to negotiate peace with Israel. One has now to find someone responsible in Israel ready to negotiate peace with us."

Ibrahim al-Sus said that nothing "really important" would be done or said by the PLO before the convening of the National Palestine Council, scheduled for the end of September. [passage omitted]

IDF Introduces Plastic Bullets After Trial

TA1508200088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Military sources said tonight that the IDF has recently introduced several new measures against the violence in the territories, including special plastic bullets intended to injure while reducing the risk of killing. The IDF uses these lawful means to increase its efficiency and ability to impose order in the territories.

Our correspondent Asaf Ashkenazi adds that the army has for a long time sought ways to reduce the damage caused by gunfire, since the efficiency of rubber bullets and tear gas have proven insufficient. At a certain stage, aluminum bullets were used.

After a trial period in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, the plastic bullets were introduced. These cause injury, but the risk of their causing death is minimal.

Brigade Commander To Stand Trial for Killing Arab

TA1608044888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The military judge advocate has decided to bring to trial a brigade commander bearing the rank of colonel who is suspected of having killed a resident of Bani Na'im in the Hebron District in the course of a chase.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the chase followed a riot in the center of the village in which stones were thrown at passing vehicles from a nearby mosque. The brigade commander opened fire and wounded a villager in the side.

Our correspondent points out that the incident took place a few months ago. There were recurrent investigations into the incident until the compilation of the charges was completed. It has not yet been determined who will try the brigade commander.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Gaza Services 'Paralyzed'

TA1508102888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a representative of the IDF spokesman who had been touring the Gaza Strip told journalists awaiting permission to enter the area at the Erez checkpoint that throughout the day there have been curfew violations and disturbances on the main road to Gaza.

Among other things, stones were thrown and tires set on fire. All services in the area are paralyzed, except for emergency services. Laborers are not leaving for work in Israel, neither may they reenter the Gaza Strip.

Relative calm prevails in Judaea and Samaria. There is a lot of traffic and shops opened for business in most towns. [passage omitted]

A firebomb was thrown near the 'Askar refugee camp in the Nabulus area at a No 81 bus on its way to Elon More. This morning the security forces imposed a curfew on the Tulkarm and Qalandiyah refugee camps. Curfews remain in effect in the Janin and Al-Duhayshah refugee camps and in the towns of Qalqilyah and Qabatiyah.

'Quiet Prevails' in Gaza

TA1508155488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Chief of Staff Dan Shomron have said that the death of the two Gazans in the fire set to the Or Yehuda hut where the two lived helped fan the recent flare-up in the Gaza Strip. The chief of staff said that the rumors regarding the tragic event in Or Yehuda reached the Gaza Strip in the same way similar reports did at the beginning of the uprising in the territories 8 months ago.

The defense minister and the chief of staff stressed that the IDF was not taken by surprise by the renewed violence in the Gaza Strip and therefore took prompt

action. The IDF's quick reaction and the heavy curfew imposed since yesterday morning will show the residents that Israel intends to use every means possible to lower the level of violence.

The chief of staff said that the curfew will be lifted in accordance with circumstances as the area calms down. He noted that at the moment quiet prevails in the Gaza Strip.

Few disturbances occurred today in the Gaza Strip, and the IDF was in control of the situation. The chief of staff emphasized, however, that the problem in the territories has not yet been solved and ups and downs in levels of violence are to be expected. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the defense minister and the chief of staff addressed reporters at the conclusion of their tour of the curfew-bound Gaza Strip.

Gazans Violate Curfew

TA1508180088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Report by Steve Rodan]

[Excerpts] This morning the Gaza Strip was a ghost town: no traffic, no pedestrians, no business—nothing. But by afternoon, the 650,000 residents of the Strip slowly began to resist the latest curfew imposed by the army. Both army and Arab sources say the curfew was violated in several areas, as young Palestinians left their homes and confronted soldiers in the streets of Gaza City and Khan Yunus.

The Arabs threw stones at soldiers and burned tires, as fundamentalist Muslim activists urged residents to violate the curfew. The soldiers responded to the disturbances, and many of the residents violating the curfew returned to their homes. At this hour, there are no reports of how many were injured. [passage omitted]

There were several disturbances reported in Judaea and Samaria, especially in the Nabulus area. At least three people were injured by live fire and rubber bullets—this, according to Arab eyewitnesses to one clash between soldiers and residents. The army spokesman would not confirm the report. [passage omitted]

Third Victim of Arson Dies

TA1608045288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The third Arab laborer who was in the hut that went up in flames in Or Yehuda has died of his wounds in the hospital. The man is 24-year-old Nasim 'Abbad, a resident of the Gaza Strip. The police are continuing their investigation into the affair. A fire brigade investigator has determined that arson was involved, but the police have not yet completed their investigation.

3 U.S. Tourists Injured

TA1508153388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpt] This report is just in: For the first time since the beginning of the uprising in the territories, tourists were injured in East Jerusalem. Our police correspondent Shlomi Stein reports:

An Egged bus was stoned near Damascus Gate this afternoon; its windows were shattered and three teenage passengers were injured. The three are U.S. citizens. One of them was treated on the spot by a Magen David Adom van and two others were transferred to a hospital, where they received medical treatment. Their condition is light to moderately serious.

Several other incidents occurred in East Jerusalem today, mainly involving roadblocks. PLO slogans and flags were put on 14 Jewish graves in the Mount Olives cemetery.

Today the police launched a drive aimed at clearing the streets of food vendors. Policemen chasing vendors off the street in the old Central Station area in Sultan Sulayman Street were forced to use tear gas. The incident ended in the arrest of four Arabs; two policemen were slightly injured. [passage omitted]

Curfews Lifted

TA1608085488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The curfew on the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem was lifted early this morning.

The curfew was imposed last Friday following riots. The full curfew on the town of Qalqilyah was also lifted. Henceforth, a curfew will be in effect only at night.

Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat notes that the curfew and closure in the Gaza Strip remain in effect.

Further Reportage on Talks With PLO Delegation

PLO Spokesman Praises Decision

LD1408225788 Cairo MENA in English 2104 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Amman, Aug 14 (MENA)—The Jordanian decision to dismantle administrative and legal ties with the occupied West Bank is aimed at serving [as received] the Palestinian issue and asserting the Palestinian people's identity, said Palestinian delegation spokesman Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu Mazin, here today.

'Abbas, who was speaking at the end of Jordanian-Palestinian talks, said the decision furthers the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

'Abbas, who is a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said the two Jordanian and Palestinian delegations agreed upon (?continuation) of Jordanian facilities and measures serving the interest of the citizens of the occupied territories' Palestinian people.

He said the Jordanian side underlined continuation of Jordanian support of the struggle of the Palestinian state in Palestinian territory.

The Palestinian side, he said, underscored its full keenness on Jordan's stability, sovereignty and internal national unity.

He further reported the Palestinian side as having laid emphasis on PLO adherence to the resolution of the Palestine National Council on setting up a Jordan-independent Palestinian state confederation.

'Abbas said the two sides agreed upon continuation of their consultations on promoting confidence and enhancing fraternal ties in furtherance of the interest of the two peoples.

The PLO official said the Palestinian delegation, while visiting Amman in the period from August 11 to August 14, met with King Husayn and the Jordanain side under Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i.

"The Jordanian side explained the decision's reasons and objectives", he said, noting that the Palestinian delegation understood the explanation.

'New Era of Relations' Begins

JN1508145288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The PLO delegation left Amman for Cairo today after holding talks with Jordanian officials. These talks were the first of their kind since the disengagement of ties between Jordan and the West Bank. It seems that the talks were successful and Amman began to talk about a new era of relations. Our correspondent Randa Habib reports from Amman:

[Begin recording] In a statement to our radio today, an official Jordanian source said the results of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks have ushered in a new era of relations between the Jordanian Government and the PLO. The source stressed that future bilateral relations will be marked by an emphasis on the PLO's role in the international arena so that the PLO can achieve the Palestinian people's national aims.

The two sides also approved the principle of consultation regarding any step or decision taken by the PLO toward the attainment of these aims. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Talks End

JN1508151488 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Amman, 15 Aug (PETRA)—The brotherly PLO delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas left Amman for Cairo this afternoon following a 3-day visit to Jordan during which the delegation met with His Majesty King Husayn.

The delegation also held extensive talks with the Jordanian side led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. These talks focused on the Palestinian situation following Jordan's decision to dismantle the legal and administrative relationship between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the occupied West Bank.

This decision was taken in the service of the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's aspirations to project their national identity on their soil. It was also taken in support of the blessed uprising.

Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nabih al-Nimr, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, and a number of officials saw the delegation off at Queen Alia International Airport.

The Palestinian delegation comprised Hani al-Hasan and PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas, 'Abdallah Hurani, Muhammad Milhim, and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya.

Official on Talks

JN1608093388 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Aug 88 pp 1, 5

[By Rabab Mango, special to JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—Three days of talks between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) that concluded here Sunday were characterised with frankness and clarity on both sides and the PLO delegation was

convinced of the sincerity, justifications and motivations behind Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nabih al-Nimr said Jordan explained its views about its decision and answered all questions put to it by the PLO side.

"The Palestinian delegation members went away conviced of Jordan's sincerity and its views, sincere justifications and motives behind the decision," Al-Nimr told the JORDAN TIMES and AL-RA'Y. He said the Palestinian side "now realizes that the decision was not meant as a punishment and that the break of legal and administrative ties were intended as a means to enable the PLO to play its role unchallenged."

Al-Nimr said there never was a "Jordanian option" to the Palestinian problem. "There was and is only one option—the Palestinian option—and the so-called Jordan option had never been," he said.

Al-Nimr said the rupture of ties with the West Bank would not have any bearing on any procedure concerning the bridges across the River Jordan, the flow of West Bank and Gaza produce into Jordan, Palestinian education in the occupied territories, and civil registration services and issuance of certificates related to birth, death, marriage and divoce.

Al-Nimr said Jordan would continue to issue Jordanian passports—not "travel documents"—to West Bankers. These passports will be valid for two years, but this does not give the holders Jordanian nationality, he said. "Nor will the holders be required to exercise Jordanian citizens' rights or duties," he said.

Palestinians living in the East Bank and carrying family reunification certificates will not be affected at all, Al-Nimr said. He estimated the number of people involved at around 83,000 heads of family.

"Jordan wants to give facilities to the Palestinians and not place obstacles in their way," he said.

"There are nearly a quarter million Palestinians who carry family reunification permits and live in Jordan or abroad and these people's status will also not be affected," the Foreign Ministry secretary-general said. The same goes for the residents of refugee camps in Jordan, he added.

As for the Palestine National Council (PNC) members who are Jordanians of Palestinian origin, Al-Nimr said that "legally no citizen has the political rights outside the framework of his state."

"But if these are allowed to maintain PNC membership, then a new formula will have to be worked out," Al-Nimr added.

The question of dual citizenship can be raised after an independent Palestinian state is established, he said.

Al-Nimr, who attended the talks with the PLO delegation, said the idea of setting up a provisional Palestinian government was being considered by the PLO leadership.

Al-Nimr did not say whether PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was expected to visit Jordan soon. But, he said, Jordan will welcome 'Arafat any time.

King Husayn Departs for Official Talks in Iraq

JN1508154288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Baghdad this afternoon on a working visit to Iraq. During the visit, his majesty will meet with his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn within the framework of the continuous consultations between the two fraternal countries on various Arab and international issues.

His majesty was seen off by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Chief Chamberlain His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the Armed Forces commander in chief, ministers, and ranking state and military officials.

His majesty is accompanied by His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, His Highness Prince Faysal ibn al-Husayn, His Highness Prince Talal ibn Muhammad, and His Highness Prince Ghazi ibn Muhammad. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah left with his majesty.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan was sworn in before His Majesty King Husayn and in the presence of the cabinet members as regent during his majesty's stay abroad.

The Iraqi ambassador in Amman also left on the royal plane.

Al-Qadhdhafi Dispatches Envoy to King Husayn

JN1308123488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] It was learned from a reliable source today that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dispatched an envoy carrying a message to King Husayn of Jordan today.

Al-Qadhdhafi announced through our radio his readiness to pay $1 million every month to the employees and civil servants of the occupied territories who have been retired.

Jordanian Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah welcomed any Arab initiative taken by any fraternal Arab country to support the kinfolk and help sustain their steadfastness on their soil.

Envoy Arrives With Message

JN1308184088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Al-Ramtha—'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libyan representative to the Arab League and ambassador in Tunisia, arrived in Amman this evening via Al-Ramtha on a 2-day visit to Jordan.

Al-'Ubaydi told a PETRA correspondant that the reason for his visit to Jordan is to deliver a written message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to King Husayn dealing with the current Arab situation.

The Libyan envoy is accompanied by ('Abd al-Qadir al-Urfalli), Libyan Relations Bureau secretary in Damascus. A number of ranking officials from the Foreign Ministry and the head of the Al-Ramtha border post received him at the Al-Ramtha border post.

Message Concerns Arab Union

JN1408182888 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at Al-Nadwah Palace today 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, envoy of His Excellency Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who conveyed to his majesty a letter from Al-Qadhdhafi concerning Libya's plan to establish an Arab union comprising all of the Arab states.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim.

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

JN1408172488 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi arrived in Amman today, carrying a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

He was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, the secretary general of the Foreign ministry, and the Algerian ambassador in Amman.

Makes Departure Statement

JN1508152088 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Amman, 15 Aug (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's envoy and foreign minister, at Al-Nadwah Palace this morning.

Ibrahimi delivered to his majesty a letter from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on the state of affairs in the Arab and international arenas.

In his letter, the Algerian president also thanked his majesty for his effective participation in the recent Algiers summit.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, the court minister, and the Algerian ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Ibrahimi left Amman this afternoon at the end of a 2-day visit to Jordan. In a predeparture statement to PETRA, Ibrahimi said: I am happy to visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and to deliver a letter from brother President Chadli Bendjedid to his brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal on the Arab state of affairs in the Arab East and the Arab Maghreb within the framework of consultations and coordination between the two fraternal countries.

He added: We in Algeria believe that consultations and coordination are important, particularly at this stage as we are on the threshold of international meetings such as the meetings by the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement which are important to our cause of Palestine. We must reach an agreement on a common stand at these rostrums.

The deputy prime minister and education minister, the Algerian ambassador in Amman, and other officials saw him off at the airport.

King Husayn, YAR President View Pan-Arab Issues

JN1208171488 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening received a telephone call from his brother His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the fraternal YAR. The two Arab leaders exchanged viewpoints on a number of pan-Arab issues.

AL-DUSTUR on 'Firm Support' for PLO

JN1408081288 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Aug 88 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Pan-Arab Considerations and Firm Stands"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn explained to the Palestinian delegation yesterday the pan-Arab motives and considerations behind the latest Jordanian measures. His majesty the king also reiterated to the delegation the constants governing the Jordanian stand toward the Palestine question.

There is no doubt that all the stands taken by Jordan toward the Palestine question throughout the history of that question always emanated from an irrevocable pan-Arab policy to which Jordan has always continued to adhere under all circumstances and at all the phases through which the Arabs' first cause has gone.

Thus, the latest decisions regarding the West Bank expressed Jordan's favorable response to the general Arab orientation which advocates the soleness of Palestinian representation. However, these decisions have not prevented Jordan from declaring its firm support for the struggle being waged by the fraternal Palestinian Arab people, irrespective of the nature of the administrative and legal ties binding the two banks.

Besides, the spirit in which the latest decisions were made prove the extent of Jordan's eagerness to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people living under the yoke of occupation and to ward off—as much as possible—the effects of the disengagement of legal ties.

This eagerness stems from this steadfast country's commitment to the spirit of Arab fraternity. It is also prompted by its awareness of the critical phase through which the Palestine question is currently going.

Hence, the Jordanian-Palestinian talks acquire their great importance, particularly as they are being held against the background of great and far-reaching variables which have nullified any sensitivities and controversial issues which might have hindered the move of these relations to a phase that is more harmonious with these variables that have become an entrenched reality in Jordan's policy.

With its latest measures, Jordan has placed all the parties concerned before their historic and direct responsibilities. Jordan will continue, as it always has, to respond positively to the Palestinians as a best brother would do—the brother who spares no effort to support Palestinian rights and the blessed uprising until the Israeli occupation is terminated and the Palestinian Arab people regain all of their legitimate national rights.

AL-RA'Y: 'Grandstanding' Behavior Avoided

JN1308095588 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Aug 88 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "We Work Without Grandstanding"]

[Text] Jordan has consistently stayed away from all manner of grandstanding. It has likewise exerted itself on behalf of inter-Arab reconciliation and accord. Characteristically broad-minded, patient, and persistent, Jordan knows, as do all Arabs, that it does not need to trumpet or brag about its generosity toward pan-Arab causes. Jordan also realizes that true generosity ought not to be at the expense of one party or another.

Jordan's stands, decisions, and practices on the Palestinian cause have typically been pan-Arab in outlook. Throughout, Jordan has never prevented any party from extending backing and support for the steadfast people in the occupied land.

Further, Jordan's responsiveness to Arab consensus on the exclusivity of PLO representation of the Palestinians has not kept it from reiterating its continued backing of the Palestinian cause under an Arab umbrella. Dismantling legal and adminstrative ties with the West Bank was an expression of that policy, pensioning off Jordanian civil servants there one of its consequences. Accordingly, no party whatsoever can afford to point criticism at Jordan.

On another plane, supreme pan-Arab interests dictate that no grandstanding be allowed to overshadow ongoing Jordanian-Palestinian talks, which need to be conducted in a wholesome atmosphere, something Jordan has done all it could to secure.

The present critical phase of the Palestinian cause lends urgency to the need for common Arab action that rises above grandstanding, not least since the PLO need no longer be sensitive as to the exclusivity of its representative status. Arab action must now necessarily adapt to the new realities.

Jordan has sought to transform these new realities into facing the United States and Israel squarely with their responsibilities—specifically to recognize the Palestinian right to their land, this being the one route to regional security and peace.

This much was said by His Majesty King Husayn in a statement to the French weekly L'EXPRESS. It is now a paramount pan-Arab responsibility to use the new facts to promote the sought-after goal.

In any case, Jordan will stick to its pan-Arab duties under an Arab umbrella. It will likewise pursue whatever policy advances Arab reconciliation and accord. Jordan believes that it is actions rather than grandstanding that make the difference.

SAWT AL-SHA'B on Al-Qadhdhafi Remarks

JN1208083588 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Aug 88 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "What Does Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi Want?"] [Text] It has been clear to every Arab citizen that Jordan was only responding to a pressing demand from both the PLO and Arab summits when it decided to disengage its political, legal, and administrative relations with the West Bank.

Jordan did not conceal from Arab kings, presidents, and people its stand on this issue as well as its ramifications in all constitutional, international, practical, and living aspects.

Therefore, the Jordanian measures were accompanied by all that will secure citizens' life in the West Bank so that the implementation of these measures will support the uprising and enhance the PLO's and Arabs' endeavors to end occupation, establish a state, and achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace.

Furthermore, this Jordanian stand was adopted at the Arab summit in Algiers. Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi participated in that summit and listened to all of King Husayn's sincere pan-Arab speech. This speech was mingled with King Husayn's experience as a statesman who has been acquainted with international issues for over 35 years and also as one who carries a pan-Arab message inherited from the late Al-Husayn ibn 'Ali, Arabs' leader and creator of their revolution.

It was understood and acceptable that Col Al-Qadhdhafi would donate a sum of $1 million to the pensioned West Bank civil servants who used to work in Jordanian state institutions. Moreover, the Jordanian political decision which made the PLO the only party responsible for Palestinian affairs also stressed that King Husayn urged the fraternal Arab states and the friendly states to continue their support and aid through the Palestinian institutions.

The requirements of joint Arab action as well as the care for the nation's unity made it necessary for Col Al-Qadhdhafi to thank Jordan for these endeavors, especially since the salaries which Jordan used to pay to the West Bank civil servants were part of the suspicions evoked by the brothers in the PLO regarding the sharing of responsibilities.

These civil servants used to receive salaries from the Israeli occupation authorities. They still do so based on the responsibility of the occupation authorities and in accordance with international law. Nevertheless, Jordan continued to pay these salaries and endure the accusations of sharing of responsibilities for the sake of these civil servants.

Moreover, when Jordan terminated their services, the Jordanian decisionmaker was aware that those pensioned off will continue to receive four fifths of their salaries as pensions. As for other civil servants, the Jordanian decision compensated for them in amounts greatly exceeding those required by law. By this measure, Jordan has after all avoided suspicions regarding the sharing of responsibilities.

Col al-Qadhdhafi's decision to pay $1 million per month to West Bank civil servants—which is much less than the sum Jordan used to pay to them—is welcomed by Jordan and considered a contribution toward bolstering people's steadfastness in the occupied West Bank. Hopefully, Col al-Qadhdhafi will not be accused of sharing of responsibilities or cooperation with the Israeli occupier.

As for the second part of President al-Qadhdhafi's statement to Radio Monte Carlo to the effect that King Husayn did not provide anything to Jerusalem, to the West Bank, or to the Palestinian people, Jordanian Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah made an appropriate reply.

He hoped that the experience gained throughout the years as well as the supreme Arab interest will prevent President Al-Qadhdhafi from continuing to belittle the responsibility of shouldering pan-Arab issues and will also prevent his precipitate behavior and end involving himself and fraternal Libya in matters that only brought further disturbances and embarrassment to Libya, to its fraternal people, and to inter-Arab relations.

It is sufficient pride for the Hashemite family, to which the leader of the great Arab revolt belongs, that he preferred exile and death to selling out Palestine and that his son, the late King 'Abdallah, managed, through politics and the Jordanian army's heroic deeds, to protect the West Bank and Jerusalem from occupation.

Moreover, King Husayn enabled both the West Bank and Jerusalem, while they were united with the East Bank, to realize prosperity and development and also to become an effective part of a kingdom that is respected on the Arab and international levels—the Kingdom which is led by King Husayn with wisdom and responsibility—so Jordan enjoyed a distinctive position in the international arena much larger than its geography and population.

Arab history will recall that following the occupation, Jordan continued to share everything with the kinfolk in the West Bank and even in the Gaza Strip. Jordan also provided everything it could in order to safeguard the first basic issue, that is, keeping the Palestinian people on their own land by supporting farmers, merchants, the industrial sector, students, and civil servants. This is because the only guarantee to end occupation is to keep the Palestinian people on their own land.

Therefore, when the uprising erupted, Jordan supported it through deeds and not words. Jordan did not interfere in Palestinian affairs nor did it try to influence or liquidate Palestinians. Furthermore, calling this party a traitor today and acquitting it tomorrow, just as others did, will continue to be for the sake of Palestine and all Palestinians. [sentence as published]

We can say that King Husayn enjoys peace of mind for the achievements he has realized for the Jordanian and Palestinian Arab peoples in all walks of life.

It gives him enough pride that Jordanian cities and villages enjoy amity, freedom, progress, and stability protected by an army which King Husayn has provided with all factors of strength so that it will be a shield for this country and for the Arab nation and its causes and good sons. Whenever a genuine pan-Arab event occurred, King Husayn used to support Arabs.

May God forgive and guide Col al-Qadhdhafi and make him see things as they actually are and not as the skeptics see them.

Sulayman Franjiyah Announces Candidacy 16 Aug
NC1608093588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpt] At a press conference held in Ihdin at 1130 today, former President Sulayman Franjiyah announced that he will run for president.

In a statement given to reporters, Franjiyah said: In the next few hours we will embark on fulfilling a deadline, which I want to be a nationalist one which brings the Lebanese people together to achieve a common goal; namely, saving and building the Lebanon of tomorrow.

The only approach to this, Franjiyah added, is the national reconciliation which should be the objective of every Lebanese.

Franjiyah believes in the need to discuss fundamental political reforms in a manner which lays the foundation for a state of strong institutions and which safeguards higher national interests.

Franjiyah described these reforms as an inevitable national need, stressing that he has an unshakable determination to shoulder the responsibility, bring the crisis to an end, and save the homeland and the citizens. [passage omitted]

Syria's Kan'an Arrives in Beirut for Election
NC1608094188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, has been in Beirut since yesterday evening, two nights prior to the scheduled Chamber of Deputies' session on Thursday that will elect a new president.

According to sources in West Beirut, Kan'an's meetings have been limited to a review of the general situation in Lebanon, particularly the presidential election.

Al-Jumayyil Receives Message From Iraq's Husayn
NC1308103988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Sabbar al-Hudaythi delivered a written message to President Amin al-Jumayyil from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn today.

The message deals with the current situation in the Middle East, particularly the situation in the Gulf in the wake of Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Booby-Trapped Car Explodes Near SLA Position
NC1408072888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] According to reports from the South, an Opel booby-trapped automobile has exploded near an agents' position in Tallusah Township in the South.

It is not yet known if there are any casualties. The enemy and agents forces have laid a security cordon around the area and launched a campaign of arrests.

Resistance Front Attacks Lahd Position 14 Aug
NC1408143188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] The National Resistance Front has declared that a unit of the southern martyrs attacked with rockets and machineguns the agents' position in Bayt Yahun at 0100 today.

A fierce, 10-minute battle ensued during which the heroic resistance fighters scored direct hits on the position, destroyed a medium-caliber machinegun, and set the position ablaze.

Shortly afterward enemy troops raked the area, using tanks. The enemy admitted the attack but, as usual, denied any casualties.

Resistance Operations in 'Alman, Hasbayya
NC1508080888 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The Martyrs 'Ali Ghazzi and 'Ali Nassar group of the comprehensive civilian resistance detonated an explosive device as an enemy patrol was passing in the 'Alman area at 1300 yesterday. A Merkava tank was destroyed and those in it were killed or wounded.

In a similar development, resistance fighters attacked an agent position in Bayt Yahun using machineguns and rockets.

Meanwhile, 2 nights ago Lebanese Resistance Groups-Amal detonated an explosive device as an enemy patrol was passing on the Al-Tayyibah-Al-Qantarah road, destroying an enemy vehicle and killing or wounding four members of the patrol.

Resistance fighters used Katyushas to pound an agent Lahd militia position in Hasbayya, and they also attacked an agent position north of 'Alman. The number of casualties sustained by the agents could not be determined.

The agent militia's radio has admitted that the Hasbayya position was shelled, but ignored mentioning any casualties.

Israeli Reinforcements

NC1508112988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The Lebanese Resistance Groups—Amal have announced that an explosive device was detonated as an Israeli-Lahd motorized patrol was passing on the Kawkaba-Tallusah road, destroying and burning a half-tracked vehicle and killing those in it.

Immediately afterward, enemy forces carried out a random search operation in the areas around the scene of the operation, searching houses for the resistance fighters who returned safely to base.

At 1830 an explosive device planted by resistance fighters near the 'Alman position was detonated as an enemy M-113 vehicle was passing in the area. Immediately afterward, Israeli helicopters flew over and searched the area.

The occupation forces brought in fresh motorized reinforcements to the 'Alman position, which have shelled the villages of Zawtar, Frun, and Al-Ghanduriyah, as well as the areas around the Al-Litani River and the Al-Qa'qa'iyah Bridge.

Army Commandos Attack Magazine's Offices

NC1408055688 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Informed sources in East Beirut have told our radio that a group of Army commandos attacked the premises of the Lebanese Forces' AL-MASIRAH magazine yesterday morning.

The edition which the magazine published yesterday included a violent attack against Army Commander General Michel 'Awn. It has been learned that the magazine's offices were smashed and their contents scattered.

Martyrs Group Claims Bomb in Syrian Office

NC1508053788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The Beirut Martyrs Battalion has claimed responsibility for detonating an explosive charge in a Syrian intelligence service office located between the Qasqas and Hamad areas of West Beirut last night.

Hizballah Accuses Amal of Killing Member

NC1408052188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Hizballah has accused the Amal Movement of killing Hizballah member Shaykh 'Ali Karim, after its members opened fire on his car at an Amal checkpoint in Bi'r al-Sanasil in the South yesterday.

Shaykh Karim's brother, his daughter, and sister, who were with him in the car, also were wounded in the incident.

Al-Asad Briefs Progressive National Front Members
JN1508202488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The Progressive National Front Central Command held a meeting at 1100 today under President Hafiz al-Asad. The Central Command was extensively briefed by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on the developments in the region and in the Arab arena in light of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the latest developments in the Gulf region, and the situation in the international arena.

The Central Command discussed all the issues that His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad had submitted in all their aspects. The Central Command welcomed the Islamic Republic of Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598, which constitutes a just solution for the destructive war the Iraqi regime had launched against the Iranian revolution.

The Central Command noted that this war has exhausted the potentialities of Iraq and Iran, has removed these potentialities from the arena of confrontation with the Zionist enemy in Palestine, has harmed the Arab cause in general, and has fulfilled the designs and the influence imperialism and Zionism seek to achieve in the region.

While the Arabs and the world have high hopes of ending this war, attaining peace, and removing foreign fleets from the Gulf, the Central Command noted that the Iraqi regime places obstacles to prevent the implementation of this resolution. This confirms the stands of this regime, which has always been seeking to expand and prolong this war after having ignited it.

The Central Command termed Iran's decision as a positive one and condemned the stands of the Iraqi regime, which continue to scorn our people in Iraq and our fateful pan-Arab causes. The Central Command voiced solidarity with the struggle of our people in Iraq and their national forces against the fascist and sanguinary regime and its practices.

The Central Command discussed issues pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It praised our people's struggle in the occupied territories and their heroic steadfastness against the criminal actions the Zionist occupiers daily carry out, a struggle which is embodied in the uprising that has entered its 9th month and is taking place in all the cities, villages, and camps in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Central Command viewed this as representing the determination to pursue the militant course of which Syria is the base.

The Central Command discussed Jordan's decision to disengage its legal and administrative links with the occupied West Bank. The Central Command believes that this decision blocks the road to the idea of a substitute homeland which the enemy seeks to materialize in its attempt to liquidate the Palestinian cause.

The Central Command also believes that this decision positively responds to the Arab summit resolutions that consider the PLO as the Palestinian Arab people's sole legitimate representative. In case problems arise that could impose further burdens on the Arab inhabitants in the occupied territories, the Arab countries, collectively and individually, should assume their responsibility of seeking the appropriate solution to these burdens.

The Central Command meanwhile condemned suspect moves and contacts for capitulatory partial solutions that will lead to liquidation of the Palestinian cause.

With respect to the situation in fraternal Lebanon, the Central Command noted its satisfaction with the efforts Syria is exerting to create the propitious atmosphere for the election of a new president of the Republic amid a democratic and normal atmosphere on the road to national accord and to extricate Lebanon from the prevailing anomalous state of affairs.

On reviewing the situation in the international arena and the efforts to achieve detente and enhance peace throughout the world, the Central Command noticed that while the Soviet Union is focusing its efforts to put out the hotbeds in the world, ward off nuclear war, and achieve detente in international relations, imperialism pursues its fierce onslaught to reimpose its hegemony, expand its zone of influence, and interfere in the domestic affairs of several countries in various parts of the world. This poses a real obstacle to the efforts to reduce tension and achieve peace.

On this occasion, the Central Command reiterated the importance of the enhancement of the relations of friendship and cooperation which exist between the two friendly countries—Syria and the Soviet Union—relations which reflect the interests of the two countries' peoples and their common struggle for progress and peace.

The Progressive National Front Central Command praised His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's great role and the efforts his excellency exerts to lead the Arab masses struggle, confront the schemes of the Arab nation's enemies, and his persistent endeavors to champion the Arab nation's just causes for liberation.

The Central Command viewed these efforts as being an enhancement of the unity of our people on the domestic level who rally around his excellency's historic, wise, and courageous leadership for the attainment of the objectives of these masses.

Commentary Views Effects of Peace on Iraqi Regime
JN1608130688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The start of the implementation of Resolution 598 on the Gulf war opens up new horizons in the direction of rectifying many issues on more than one level. Despite the amount of wasted resources caused by the war, the squandered economic, financial, and military potentials of the two countries, the harm caused to the Arab issue through diverting the potentials of the countries from confronting the Israeli enemy, and the achievements it has provided imperialism and Zionism in the form of services and spheres of influence—despite all these difficulties—all these losses are reversible. The chances of correction with the end of war are open on more than one level.

The harm that has been caused to the Arab issue through creating a struggle with Iran and an Arab-Persian conflict diverts attention from the central issue. Now, it is possible to remove this through exerting efforts to rectify the Iranian-Arab relationship and deepen the alliance between the two sides to confront the common enemy.

Perhaps the most important prospect opened up by the end of the war is the one which has become legitimate in front of the struggle of our people in Iraq. The war was a form of coverup for the fascist regime to continue its oppressive and bloody practices against our people.

The war, as far as Saddam's regime was concerned, was a chance to strike the national Iraqi powers in their various policies as hard as possible and to use all means of oppression, repression, and execution, even to the extent of using chemical weapons against some Iraqi villages and towns. Thus, he was exploiting the war, which should cause an uproar about the popular suffering on the inside.

Therefore, the fascist regime will find difficulty in adapting to the atmosphere of peace which will come about with the end of the war. It is expected that it will do its best to hamper the process of finding a final solution to the issue of this war.

Any return of the Arab-Iranian relations to their normal form will foil all claims, which Saddam's regime propagated during the war about the acclaimed Iranian danger. It will also prove the futility of all its proposals over the acclaimed Persian-Arab conflict.

Such a return will confirm the truth that Syria has always stressed: The Islamic Republic of Iran is a support for the Arab cause and not an enemy of the Arabs.

The atmosphere of peace will give the Iraqi people on the inside the chance to act and rid themselves of the yoke of oppression and tyranny which the regime is practicing against them.

Therefore, a regime such as Saddam's will not be able to adapt to the atmosphere of peace. Nay, such an atmosphere will, sooner or later, contribute toward ridding the Iraqi people and the region of its evils.

'Ayn Shams Demonstrators in Egypt Hailed
JN1508204488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Excerpts] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation: From 'Ayn Shams, the city of the sun, whose roots go back into the depth of Egyptian history, the spark has flared, the spark of the revolution of stones and incendiary bombs.

The children and sons of Egypt, the descendants of Mina, Thutmose, and Ramses II unleashed this revolution. An army of children moved where their grandfathers used to move over 5000 years ago, to cry out against the regime tied down by the Camp David accords. [passage omitted]

Realities of history are stronger than all Camp David shackles and than the arrogance of the dollar slaves. The stones and relics of 'Ayn Shams show the true meaning of Arab Egypt, the Egypt of deep-rooted civilization, and the Egypt of human values whose capabilities should not be mortgaged to the recently-born Washington or to the fabricated, parasitic entity which the enemies established in the heart of our homeland so that it may curb our freedom, continue to threaten our security, and exhaust our resources.

Therefore, it is no wonder that the Egyptian people emerge from behind the walls of 'Ayn Shams and from the streets of Mina, Thutmose, Ramses, 'Amr ibn al-'As, and Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir [as heard], armed with stones, incendiary bombs, and torn shackles in order to confront arrogance that oppresses its own people and prevents Egypt's might from confronting the enemies of Egypt.

These are the signs of Egypt's uprising, which coincide with Palestine's uprising. These are the pulses of the Egyptian people who sympathize with the Palestinian people.

Greetings to you, O 'Ayn Shams residents. Greetings to you, O inheritors of Egypt's great glory. With your vigor and blood you confirmed that Egypt, which we know and love, has not yet died and will not die. You also proved that Egypt's stones fight just like the stones of Palestine and that the fire of purity will continue to blaze until the disgraces of occupation and subjugation to the foreigner who dominates our resources have ended.

Afghanistan

Security Forces Expel 'Extremists' From Konduz

LD1508164088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The BIA's military section reports that a number of saboteur and warmongering extremist elements, in accordance with the instructions of their known backers, recently tried in vain to put pressure on the inhabitants of Konduz and the surrounding areas.

They committed a number of criminal acts against our peace-loving compatriots, plundering their property, committing acts of sabotage, and disrupting the peace in Konduz City.

The report adds that the country's vigilant security forces, who enjoy the full support of the population, adopted the necessary measures, and with the help of our peace-loving people carried out mopping-up operations so as to maintain law and order, cleanse the city and its surrounding areas from saboteur and rebellious elements, and to prevent further crimes.

In the course of these mopping-up operations, extremist groups showed resistance, and by utilizing heavy weapons tried to prevent their local defeat. However, the Armed Forces, by using effective tactics in saving the people from the claws of the plundering and warmongering elements, crushed 3 separate groups—16, 26, and 50 man groups—and wounded many more. During these operations dozens of enemy weapons were destroyed or captured by the security forces.

The BIA's military section adds that despite the damage and destruction caused by the extremists' savage attacks, which caused great indignation and hatred among the people, the country's Armed Forces are making resolute efforts to cause no harm to the people ofthe area in the course of their mopping-up operations.

Najibullah Holds News Conference in Kabul

LD1608074988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 15, BAKHTAR—"The regular visit of foreign journalists to Kabul in the last two years has been changed into a good tradition. We are ready to provide you with all possibilities so that you can get acquainted with the current developments in the country and see for yourselves all the realities about Afghanistan", said Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, in an address at a press conference held here today.

I remember that I answered your more than 100 questions at the press conference held on the occasion of the beginning of the withdrawal of Soviet troops. I have received several questions for our today's meeting.

Before answer to these questions, I would like to point out the following, he added.

In my view, the confrontation of two policies characterizes the present situation in Afghanistan. On the one hand, the positive and sound process of normalising the situation is gaining further growth on the basis of Geneva agreements and the internal political compromise, and on the other, endeavours are launched to exacerbate the situation in and around Afghanistan.

The events, with regard to which you have come to Afghanistan, demonstrated that the Geneva agreements, which heralded to world the objective opportunity for undoing the knots of regional conflicts, are so far being precisely observed by the Republic of Afghanistan alone.

The return of 50 per cent of the limited Soviet military contingent completed before our eyes. Today, the internationalist servicemen do not exist in 26 provinces, out of 32. The timetable on the withdrawal of Soviet troops will be observed in future too in conformity with the Geneva agreements.

Najibullah noted that the National Assembly began its work. This assembly represents different classes and strata of the Afghan society and all the nationalities residing in the country. The new government has been formed on the basis of the coalition principles. The coalition organs of state power have been established in localities. A wide-range programme has been undertaken towards rendering assistance to the repatriates.

No doubt, we could achieve more successes in realising the policy of national reconciliation. But, the continuation of destructive acts from outside, Pakistan at the first place, seriously hinder this process.

Since the very moment when the Geneva agreements came into force, the aggressive and interventionist activities from the territory of Pakistan against our country have tangibly increased.

The point is not only that Pakistan does not fulfil its commitments towards dismantling the military basis, armed detachments and the groups opposing the Afghan Government, but regretfully Pakistan itself is involved actively in the anti-Afghan propaganda campaign.

Today, he stressed, the Afghan people have fallen victim to an aggressive and powerful ideological and psychological war from abroad. Some, who enjoy foreign support, try to establish the domination of socalled seven alliance in our country. But, this way is the way of death and can have serious consequences for the people of Afghanistan.

President of Afghanistan told that the three past months convincingly showed who wants the peaceful normalisation of the situation of Afghanistan and who opppose it. In this matter lies the most outstanding lesson of the

traversed path should each side have manifested his genuine will and determination not by words or slogans but by means of specific actions. [sentence as received]

On the eve of the return of the Soviet forces, the mass media of some countries spread the rumours that immediately after the commencement of the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, the Kabul regime would be toppled. Right now, the sure tone of such prognostications have been smothered even in the loyal supporters of the extremists.

I think that it has become clear for the anti-Afghan forces and those who determine their will that they could overthrow the popular government only through exerting a powerful force from abroad. Thus, the enemies of peace and normalisation of the situation intensified interventions.

They are making haste, because time is working against them. During these arduous months, the popular power has shown its capability to survive and the Armed Forces its capability of independent discharging of tasks in defence of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The events in Kabul, Jhalalabad, and Ghazni demonstrated this matter. The flamboyant statements of the extremists on the immediate occupation of provinces and cities remained only in words.

Of course, the politico-military situation in the country is still complicated and I do not intend to call it simple. The situation in Takhar, Konduz and Konar, where the extremists have concentrated more of their forces, is very complicated. The Pakistani militia too took part in the military actions against the forces of the Afghan Government and made use of the most modern U.S. weapons.

With such deeds, the extremists have once again demonstrated their real face. Their attacks were accompanied by plunder, looting, murder of the civiflians and senseless destruction. But, their proteges call them "defenders of faith".

Whatever is going on in Afghanistan brings its impacts on the situation in the world at large. Realising our responsibility towards the people of Afghanistan and the world public, we will do whatever concerns us towards the normalisation of the Afghanistan situation. All the world is awaiting with hope for the solution of the Afghan problem. The world knows that this end could be ensured with the full realisation of the Geneva agreements.

Then the president answered the questions raised by the journalists as follows:

Replying to a U.S. journalist, Najibullah said if Pakistan continues to violate the provisions of Geneva agreements it obliges the Republic of Afghanistan to take steps as the objective situation requires. But we, President Najibullah went on, expect Pakistan and other sides concerned to desist from violations and to yield to the call of peace.

I think that, Najibullah said, the United Nations and the guarantors of the agreements have the necessary possibilities to make the violators to drop its continuation of illegal actions.

Answering a Spanish journalist, he said that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan possesses more military capability than any other time. The Afghan Armed Forces are enjoying rich experience of combatting with the extremists and are able to counter an anti-people actions. Since Pakistan does not observe the provisions of Geneva agreements the Armed Forces are obliged to struggle against foreign interventions.

Replying to a Swiss journalist, he said that the leadership of Afghanistan highly appreciates the efforts of Diego Cordovez for the normalisation of the domestic political situation. The people of the world are aware of the principle of our approach. This constitutes the grounds for the policy of national reconciliation and is covering an extensive dialogue with opposition. The only requirement for such a dialogue is ceasefire.

About a question on the joining of the former king to the process of national reconciliation, he replied that the former king like any other Afghans can join the process of national reconciliation. We have extended this invitation to all social and political figures right from the beginning of the announcement of national reconciliation. The invitation is still in force.

Answering another question, Najibullah said the extremists are yet able to fire rockets from a remote distance which results in the death of common people but they will never be able to attack on Kabul city and the question of the city is irrelevant.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, has never called itself a Marxist party but some circles are calling us communists and Marxists and take advantage of it, said Najibullah.

Touching on a question about the unification of the ranks of the PDPA, he replied that the difference of views does not mean disunity. There are no factors inside the party for creating obstacles towards the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation.

The nation-wide party conference in the last year confirmed the party unity and the two plenums of the Central Committee which are to be held this year are giving us the opportunity to stress on this matter.

Regarding the role of the Afghan women in the development of the country, President Najibullah said the women of Afghanistan are particularly benefitting from

the policy of national reconciliation. The women activists have become united in the Women Council of Afghanistan, WCA, and 125 thousand women are organised in this council.

There exists about one hundred production associations in which over 20 thousand women are actively taking part. 186 per cent [as received] of women are working in the state organs. The women are taking an active part in the armed defence of the republic. A program to motivate women and to uplevel their activities is under compilation.

Details of News Conference

BK1508130288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1244 GMT 15 Aug 88

[By Bertrand de Saisset]

[Excerpts] Kabul, Aug 15 (AFP)—Government forces have retaken the town of Konduz in northern Afghanistan which guerrillas captured last week, Afghan President Najibullah said here Monday.

Mr. Najibullah, who made the announcement at a press conference, did not say when government forces retook the town.

The situation in Konduz was still "very complex," he said, adding that it had not been necessary to send special forces to retake the town.

Reliable sources, however, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that some 2,000 troops had been sent to take part in the operation.

Several loud explosions were heard during Mr. Najibullah's press conference at the Foreign Ministry, but it was impossible to determine their cause. [passage omitted]

A Soviet official told AFP here Monday that Afghan Government forces began their counter-attack against the rebels "a day ago" and accused the rebels of having "pillaged" the city.

The mujahidin have captured many bases and military outposts. In late June they took the Qalat, capital of southern Zabol Province, but held it for less than 24 hours when the local population asked them to withraw after Soviet and Afghan planes bombed the region heavily.

Mr. Najibullah said there was no question of his stepping down, rejecting any idea that his resignation could facilitate a settlement in Afghanistan. "We have to look for other solutions to reach a settlement," he said.

Moscow's aid to Kabul would continue after the Soviet withdrawal is completed in February, he said. Rebel rocket attacks on the capital had "intensified" but the mujahidin were in no position to attack the city, he added.

Soviet forces would remain in five of the country's 31 provinces after Monday—Kabul, Parvan, Samangan, Baghlan and Herat, Mr. Najibullah said.

The strategic Salang highway from the capital runs through Parvan, Samangan and Baghlan while another road linking the Soviet Union to Shindand, its largest base in Afghanistan, runs through Herat.

United Nations observers monitoring the Geneva accords should not only be deployed on the Soviet-Afghan border but also on the Afghan-Pakistan frontier to control rebels entering the country, he said. He accused Pakistan militia forces of helping the rebels in the border province of Konarha.

There were no divisions within his ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, he said, insisting that its unity had been preserved.

The Afghan president also expressed his "approval" for Soviet contacts with the rebels in order to secure the release of 313 servicemen listed by Moscow as missing in Afghanistan and presumed held by the mujahidin.

Gen. Gromov said Sunday it was "natural" that there should be such contacts with the guerrillas.

Conflict 'Intensifying'

OW1508142588 Tokyo KYODO in English 1354 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 15 KYODO—Afghan President Najibullah on Monday confirmed that the political and military conflict in Afghanistan is intensifying as Soviet troops continue to leave the country.

Najibullah made the admission at a press conference held in Kabul, the nation's capital.

Government forces on Sunday recaptured the border city of Konduz from the rebels, while the guerrillas attacked Kabul during the latest round of stepped-up clashes, government sources said.

Soviet officials said their troops were not involved in the recapture of Konduz, which is located only 60 kilometers south of the Soviet border.

Half of the estimated 110,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan left the country Monday, the deadline set by the Geneva peace accords signed in April. The remaining Soviet troops are required to leave by February 15.

According to Lieut.-Gen. Boris Gromov, the commander of Soviet forces here, the Soviet Union's troops will only be stationed in six provinces out of a total 31 as a result of the latest pullout.

The provinces include Kabul, three leading to the Soviet Union and two located in the West, indicating the Soviet plan to secure the path of their withdrawal as well as to defend Kabul.

Soviet officials also said they believe the Afghan army is capable of assuming the Soviet role of subduing the rebels. However, the rebels have twice the force strength of the government's 50,000-member army and still receives military assistance from Pakistan and the United States, according to informed sources.

The Soviets reiterate that they will not abide by the February 15 deadline for the completion of their withdrawal if Pakistan continues to assist the guerrillas in violation of the Geneva accords.

Although the rebels are being given military aid from the outside, an internal conflict reportedly exists between moderates and radicals in the League of the Afghanistan Mujahidin Islam [as received], which is comprised of seven anti-government factions.

A Soviet general previously stationed here told a Soviet paper in July that the Najibullah government was also suffering from internal division and would not be capable of surviving for long.

Najibullah Interviewed by Soviet TV

For Soviet TV reportage on the interview given by President Najibullah to a Moscow television correspondent in Kabul, on the Soviet military pullout, Soviet assistance to Afghanistan, and Afghan political developments, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 16 August Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

Government Issues Statement on Geneva Accords

LD1608085688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 16 Aug 88

["Statement of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan"]

[Text] Kabul, Aug 15, BAKHTAR—Today, three months have elapsed since enforcement of the Geneva agreements which were signed by the Republic of Afghanistan, Pakistan the United States of America and Soviet Union with active assistance of the United Nations organisation.

These documents have created an international legal basis for normalization of the political situation around Afghanistan and have left positive effects on improvement of the international atmosphere and shown ways and possibilities of peaceful solution of the acute regional conflicts.

Enforcement of the Geneva agreements provides grounds for normalization of the situation inside the country. The policy of national reconciliation has provided all necessary conditions for realization of this issue and provided possibilities for political solution by the Afghans themselves on the basis of reasonable compromise and broad based coalition.

The people of Afghanistan have warmly welcomed the Geneva agreements and along with that, continued their efforts for ending years long war and stabilizing peace in Afghanistan.

During the three months which have elapsed, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan invited all forces for precise and continous performance of its commitments.

Afghanistan along with the Soviet Union as guarantors of the Geneva agreements acted with a spirit of complete mutual understanding and have provided all possibilities for serious observance of the announced time-table for return of the Soviet troops. In accordance with the Geneva agreements one half of the Soviet limited military contingent have returned to their country till today August 15, 1988.

Extensive program has been realized for safe return of the Afghan emigrants. Constructive proposals have been put forward to the UN and the Pakistani Government for acceleration of the process.

The Government of Afghanistan has created all conditions for successful fulfillment of the mission of the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] to control observance of the Geneva accords. The door is open to the world public opinion to control process of the fulfillment of the agreements in the territory of Afghanistan. The whole world can be sure that the Government of Afghanistan honestly realizes its commitments.

In spite of artificial obstacles, process of the normalization of the internal political situation grows on the basis of national reconciliation principles. The National Assembly, the parliament, of the Republic of Afghanistan which [word indistinct] as various forces and stratas of the Afghan society has started its activity.

The new government has been formed on the basis of coalition in which majority of the posts belong to non-party persons. Form of the coalition administration in the villages expands the participation of the former opposition personalities and those of the former regimes.

Preservation of the normal situation in 26 provinces in which the Soviet forces do not exist is manifestation of the capability of the new political organs.

The sincere efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan in realization of the Geneva accords has considerably elevated the international prestige of the country. President Najibullah's visits to India, Cuba, Vietnam and Kampuchea and his participation in the work of the UN special session on disarmament is a good manifestation to this act.

The Geneva agreements obliges all sides to realize all provisions of the signed documents seriously and continuously.

Attaining to complete normalization of atmosphere inside and around Afghanistan is only possible if all signatories of the Geneva agreements act the same as Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

But, unfortunately, the Government of Pakistan has not fulfilled Geneva agreements during the past six months.

The Government of Pakistan has not dismantled the camps and bases of the Afghan opposition groups inside its territory and continues supply and shipment of opposition armed groups inside the Afghan territory and create obstacles against Afghan refugees to return home.

In addition it must be added here that Pakistan has increased its interventions in the internal affairs of Afghanistan through its support and encouragement of the opposition, Pakistan has entered into a [words indistinct] Afghanistan.

As a a guarantor of Geneva agreement, the Government of the United States of America has not prevented Pakistan in pursuing its disturbing policy and it instead encourages oppositions to commit distructive acts against Afghanistan.

Such Pakistani acts and those of its supporters do not mean paying any attention to Geneva Agreements but it [word indistinct] encroaching from all decisions of the UN as well as complete violation of internationally accepted norms and principles of the international law.

The destructive publicity war against Afghanistan, has been intensified and taken dimensions of a real psychological war. Some think that this war is carried out against the Government of Afghanistan. This is a gross mistake. This war is carried out against the entire people of Afghanistan who are either on the government side or are on the side of the opposition. This war pursues the aim of preventing peace and ensurance of national unity in the country.

Despite its commitments the Pakistani Government openly instigates the irreconciliable opposition to overthrow the legal government of the Republic of Afghanistan. Existence of the so-called transitional government in the territory of Pakistan is an irresponsible violation of Geneva agreements and the accepted norms of international law.

The Government of the Republic of Afganistan, in its part, evaluates these acts as open interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The systematic violation of Geneva agreements by Pakistan causes deep concern of the interested parties, particularly those of the people and Government of Afghanistan.

The Government of Afghanistan calculates that the U.S. Government, as guarantor of Geneva agreements finally not only in words but will act practically on the fulfilling of Geneva agreements.

The Government of Afghanistan is in this opinion that the UN will avail itself of all its possibilities and authorities for the realisation of Geneva agreements. The UN which is an active international organ is able to follow commitments of the signatories of Geneva agreements effectively.

The people of Afganistan is waiting for the support and assistance of international community. The Geneva Agreements ensure security, stability and interest of the world people. During the realisation of the first phase of Geneva Agreement it was further observed that the policy of national reconciliation transforms, as a determined factor, on the growth of situation inside and around Afghanistan.

Continuation of face-to-face armed clashes and deepening of national discord have created a real threat before the political independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. The only alternative is cessation of fratricide, peaceful normalisation of conditions through an extensive dialogue of all political powers.

The Government of Afghanistan is convinced that solution of situation around Afghanistan is possible on the basis and in conformity with Geneva accords.

The Government of Afghanistan will continuously try to fulfil its commitments for the complete realisation of Geneva agreements at the interest of Afghans and the world people.

But, it must be clear to all that the Government of Afghanistan can not remain indifferent against those acts endangering political independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the country.

If interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan is not stopped, the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union with having complete mutual understanding between them will study results of these interferences and according to the governing situation will specify their stands.

TASS Version of Statement

LD1508213888 Moscow TASS in English 2127 GMT 15 Aug 88

["Statement by Afghan Government"—TASS headline]

[Text] Kabul August 15 TASS—The Geneva accords, reached with U.N. active assistance and in effect for three months now, have created an international legal basis for a political settlement of the situation concerning Afghanistan, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan said in a statement issued here today.

It is said that the accords had a favourable effect on the international climate and showed ways for peaceful solution of acute regional conflicts.

"The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is making all efforts to fulfil its commitments in an accurate and consistent way," the statement said.

"Acting in the spirit of complete mutual understanding with the Soviet Union—one of the international guarantors of the Geneva accords, Afghanistan is doing everything necessary to ensure strict observance of the planned schedule of the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

"By today, half of the Soviet troop contingent has returned home in accordance with the Geneva accords," the statement went on.

It voiced regret that over the past three months Pakistan had not fulfilled a single point of the Geneva accords.

"Moreover, it has sharply invigorated its interference in Afghanistan affairs.

"The U.S. Administration, a guarantor of the Geneva accords, does not oppose the obstructionist policy of the Pakistani authorities and thus encourages them to engage in subversive activities.

"Such actions by Pakistan and forces behind it not only violate the Geneva accords but openly challenge the United Nations and fully disregard generally accepted norms and principles of international law.

Pakistan, contrary to its commitments, is openly prodding the irreconcilable Afghan opposition to topple the legitimate Government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

"The existence in Pakistani territory of the so-called transitional government is a gross violation of the Geneva accords and generally accepted norms of international law.

"The Afghan Government views all these actions as acts of undisguised interference in the domestic affairs of its country.

"It does not lose hope that the Pakistani side will display wisdom at last and think of consequences of such short-sighted actions.

"The Afghan Government has the right to expect the U.S. Administration to act, not in word but in deed, as a guarantor of the Geneva accords.

"The Afghan Government holds that U.N. will use its entire prestige and capabilities for implementation of the Geneva accords.

"The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan cannot remain indifferent to actions threatening the country's political independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

"If the interference in Afghanistan's domestic affairs is not stopped, the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, which have complete mutual understanding on the issue, will draw necessary conclusions and specify their measures to meet the requirements of the situation," the statement said.

Wakil Makes Moscow Stopover; Meets Vorontsov

LD1508215288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politbureau and foreign minister, made a stopover in Moscow yesterday while on his way from Kabul to Helsinki. He was met at the airport by Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister.

Vice President Hatif Begins Moscow Visit

For reportage on the Moscow visit of 'Abdurrahim Hatif, vice president, chairman of the Central Council of the National Front, and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission on National Reconciliation, including his meeting with Petr Demichev, alternate member of the CPSU Politburo, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 15 August Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Security Forces Seize 8 Missiles; Foil Attack

LD1508145588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The brave security forces have seized eight surface-to-surface missiles and prevented the occurrence of sad incidents in Kabul. According to a report by the

BAKHTAR military section, these missiles were hidden in (Qal-e Malak), Paghman District and in Dashtak village, Chahar Asiab District in Kabul.

AFP: 6 Die in Rocket Attack

BK1508150388 Hong Kong AFP in English 1451 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug 15 (AFP)—A rocket killed six people in a residential area of the Afghan capital Monday [15 August] during a presidential press conference, an official said.

The rocket landed "quite a way" from the Afghan Foreign Ministry where President Najibullah was telling journalists his troops had recaptured the town of Konduz from the mujahidin, the official said.

Journalists said they heard two loud explosions during the press conference.

The Afghan official said one rocket had killed six people in a residential district. He did not elaborate. Witnesses said several rockets hit Kabul airport.

Mr. Najibullah told journalists that rebel rocket attacks on the capital had intensified recently. He said government forces had retaken the town of Konduz in northern Afghanistan which guerrillas captured last week. He did not say when the town was recaptured.

A Soviet official said here Monday that Afghan Government forces began their counter-attack against the rebels "a day ago" and accused the rebels of having "pillaged" the town.

Residential Areas Shelled

LD1508165688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] This morning around 1100 the criminal extremists, firing long range surface-to-surface missiles martyred four people in the market of Third Microrayan [Kabul City] three of which were children: Wagma, daughter of Hafizollah, 3 years old; Fardin, son of Amamodin, 10 years old; Marzia, daughter of Khaja, 10 years old; and Haji Amin, son of Ahmad, 60 years old. Nine people were injured.

It was also reported that extremists elements, last night around 2010, fired four long range surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas in the 8th ward of the city of Kabul, martyring one woman and wounding two others.

According to reports from the Kabul's hospitals, the condition of the injured is considered to be satisfactory.

6 Jalalabad Residents Killed by 'Extremists'

LD1508141888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Yesterday, extremist elements martyred six of our compatriots and injured six others, by firing 42 rocket missiles on the residential areas of the first and second wards of Jalalabad. A house was destroyed.

The Armed Forces crushed an extremist group in Mehtarlam, Baglan city. During this mopping-up operation, which local residents cooperated in, three machineguns, (?eight) boxes of their shells, and five boxes of mortar shells were also destroyed.

Mujahidin Kill 5 Soldiers, Down Aircraft

BK1508153888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] More reports have come in about mujahidin operations around Kabul and in other parts of Afghanistan. The mujahidin ambushed a troop of the Kabul regime army between Paghman and Kabul last week, killing five Najibullah regime soldiers. The mujahidin also shot down an aircraft in Kabul Province last Friday [12 August]. They attacked military posts near Grishk and (Kachkai) areas and shot down a helicopter near (Kachkai).

Rebels Demand End to Soviet Interference

BK1508164488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1614 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 15 (AFP)—The mujahidin Monday called on Moscow to end its interference in Afghanistan and pay war compensation as the Soviet Union completed the withdrawal of half its troops under the Geneva peace accords.

"The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was without any justification... They must withdraw immediately all troops without any hesitation," a statement issued by Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, current head of the seven-party resistance alliance said.

"Since the Soviet Union is totally responsible for aggression and destruction, it is up to them to redress their gross violation and dire effects" of the nine year old war, Mr. Gaylani said.

If the Soviets fail to do that, "the option of armed struggle will remain open for the mujahidin," he said.

Rebel leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar charged at a news conference here that Moscow had not met the condition of "front-loading" its troop withdrawal, as provided in the Geneva accords which paved the way for a nine-month pull-out of the estimated 115,000 Red Army soldiers. The troops left in small contingents after gradually abandoning less important garrisons, Mr. Hikmatyar said.

Their withdrawal was not on the basis of signing an accord in Geneva but because they saw no gain in staying on in Afghanistan, he said, adding that he thought the Red Army would leave before the February 15 deadline.

He also said the Soviet Union wanted to replace Afghan President Najibullah, and called on Moscow "to abstain from any interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan."

The Soviet press, he said, was preparing public opinion for a change in Kabul.

Mr. Hikmatyar strongly opposed what he said was a Soviet-backed plan to bring back exiled King Zahir Shah to replace Mr. Najibullah.

The Soviet Union could not impose a government on Afghanistan, he said, warning that rebel activity would continue until an Islamic government was set up in Kabul.

He said the mujahidin would now intensify fighting for southern Qandahar and other major Afghan cities, adding that the government in Kabul would not survive.

Foreign Ministry Submits Notes on Violations

69th Note

LD1208205888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's liaison office with UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reports this evening that Afghanistan's 69th note concerning blatant violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan was given to the UNGOMAP office in Kabul.

The note clarifies two cases of Pakistani violations of Article 2 of Document 1 and Article 3 of Document No 3 of the Geneva accords. The note asks the mission to investigate these violations and to inform the relevant parties and the UN secetary general's representative about the results of the investigation.

Notes 71, 72

LD1608092788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 15, BAKHTAR—The 71st and the 72nd notices of the Republic of Afghanistan pertaining to the violations of the Geneva Agreements by Pakistan were submitted here today to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, UNGOMAP.

The notices ask the UNGOMAP to investigate the said violations, on the basis of the regulations of the Item 7 of the Document No. 4 of the Geneva Agreements and inform the concerned authorites of the Republic of Afghanistan and the representative of UN Secretary General of its results.

Bangladesh

Dhaka Demonstrators Seek Ershad Resignation

BK1308044288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, hundreds of freedom fighters staged street demonstrations in Dhaka yesterday. They were demanding punishment of the killers of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, resignation of President Ershad, and suppression of antiliberation process.

The demonstrators wearing black badges and shouting antigovernment slogans paraded the streets and later held a rally.

Foreign Secretary on SAARC, UN Team to Gulf

BK1408161288 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Bangladesh continues to play its traditional role of contributing to the regional and international forums. This was stated by the foreign secretary, Mohammad Moshin, while briefing newsmen in Dhaka today on the country's role in different forums.

About the recently concluded meeting of SAARC council of ministers in Kathmandu, he said Bangladesh placed new ideas and proposals at the session for promoting more people-to-people contacts and reaching benefit of SAARC activities to the people of its member states.

Mr Moshin said the Kathmandu meeting decided that the first chairman of the SAARC food security reserve would be from Bangladesh and the vice chairman from Bhutan. The security reserve has become effective since last Friday.

About the UN peacekeeping observers team in the Gulf, the foreign secretary said a contingent of 15 officers from the Bangladesh Armed Forces is leaving Dhaka on Tuesday. It will be headed by a lieutenant colonel. The contingent includes 10 majors and 4 captains.

The Bangladesh team of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group, UNIIMOG, and the contingents from 11 other countries will be deployed on the Iraqi side of the border.

The foreign secretary further said Bangladesh is continuing its efforts to bring back the tribal refugees from Indian territories. While the government is maintaining its efforts, the refugees continue to return home on their own.

Asked whether there is a stalemate on the issue of the return of refugees from the camps in the Indian state of Tripura, he said there is no such stalemate and no such question arises.

Mr Moshin said Bangladesh has also reaffirmed its unstinted support to strengthen South-South cooperation. This has been demonstrated following Bangladesh's early ratification of the agreement on the global system of trade preferences among the developing countries. It was ratified at the ministrial meeting in Belgrade on the 3d of this month.

Foreign Office Spokesman on Exodus of Hindus

BK1508024988 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 0100 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said that Bangladesh has received no communication from the Indian Government about the exodus of Hindus from Bangladesh to India.

He made this remark in response to newsmen's questions in Dhaka yesterday iabout whether Bangladesh has received any communication at all from India about the exodus of Hindus. The newsmen quoted a statement of an opposition political leader alleging the exodus of Hindus from this country.

Editorial on Ziaul Haq's Election Tactics

BK1308070688 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 29 Jul 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Election in Pakistan"]

[Text] President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan might have a good reputation in some affairs, but on keeping his word, particularly as it relates to election matters, his reputation is not good.

After seizing power through a military coup in 1977 he gave his word that he would return to barracks after holding elections within 3 months.

However, he did not keep his word. On the contrary, he was engrossed in consolidating his power by sending [former prime minister Zulfiqar Ali] Bhutto to the gallows. That 3 months until elections were held dragged out to 8 years.

Meanwhile, of course, the dates for holding elections and their postponement were repeatedly announced. Once, in reply to critics, he said that his statements were not the writings of the Koran which cannot be changed.

There is a fear that the same type of game is being played regarding the next elections also. When he dismissed the Council of Ministers and dissolved the National Assembly on 29 May, Zia declared that elections would be held within 3 months.

However, the moment the opposition parties announced they would jointly contest the elections, he immediately started maneuvering with the election date. According to the Constitution, the elections should be held by 29 August.

Nevertheless, he recently declared 16 November as the date for general elections. Not only that, at first he said that the elections would be held on party basis, but after the Supreme Court handed down the verdict that the Pakistan People's Party can take part in the elections, he changed his mind.

On 21 July he declared that the elections would be held on a partyless basis because in this way, the best people would be elected. The 1985 elections were also held on a partyless basis.

Therefore, according to General Ziaul Haq's assertion, only the "best people" were elected at that time. However, he could not tolerate a parliament comprised of best people for more than three years. With a stroke of the pen he dissolved parliament and pushed the nation into political uncertainty.

Under the circumstances, the only objective of all his political steps is not to advance the democratic process but to consolidate more firmly his dictatorial power. And for that reason he not only betrays his own words, but he does not hesitate to trample on the provisions of the Constitution.

Prior to the 1985 elections, by amending the Constitution and the election rules and regulations to his own liking, he managed to keep the political parties out of the election process. In protest the opposition parties boycotted the elections.

This time too, realizing that it was impossible to stop the victory of the opposition parties in a party-based election and to maneuver for the success of the people whom he liked, he betrayed his earlier pledges and took the initiative of holding elections on a partyless basis.

It is believed that the pregnancy of Ms Bhutto [leader of the Pakistan People's Party] was the main cause for the postponement of election date because he wants to take advantage of the situation.

In other words, by disregarding democratic practice and constitutional obligations, he strives to attain his sole objective of making his unlawful power permanent by holding a superficial election.

In this manner General Ziaul Haq might be able to maintain his position for some time. But will it solve Pakistan's political crisis? Pakistan's national integrity and social stability are facing a great threat today because of ethnic rivalries and riots, economic inequality, an increased tendancy toward separatism, and so forth.

The 30 years of direct and indirect military rule have made these problems more intense and complex, thereby increasing social and political instability and uncertainty. It is becoming impossible for him to sidetrack the existing socioeconomic-political problems by even insisting on the establishment of a so-called Islamic social system.

The solution to all these problems requires genuine democracy, workable autonomy for smaller provinces, and intense socioeconomic reforms. A free, fair and meaningful election could guide the nation in that direction. But does the ruling clique intoxicated with power want this?

India

Gandhi on Punjab, Foreign Policy Issues

BK1308085188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] The prime minister has said that while the government will be very tough in dealing with terrorism in Punjab, it is prepared to talk to anybody willing to accept a settlement within the framework of the Indian Constitution. In an interview published in Zimbabwe's leading daily THE HERALD today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the problem is very complicated and no one can give a simplistic picture of how it can be solved.

Referring to the support given by Pakistan to terrorism, he said India has given full details to Islamabad of the training of Punjab terrorists in Pakistan.

Mr Gandhi said though it is a very difficult task, India is now taking steps to seal the border with Pakistan to prevent the flow of assistance to terrorists.

The All India Radio Harare correspondent, Gopal Indraseni, reports that the prime minister touched upon a wide number of issues in the interview given to Mr Tommy Sithole, editor of THE HERALD when he visited India recently.

Referring to India's relations with China, Mr Gandhi said they are still very tense but dangers have been defused to a great degree. Talks have been going on and India hopes to reduce tension.

Referring to the situation in Sri Lanka, the prime minister said Indian troops in Sri Lanka have been operating in close cooperation with the Sri Lankan Government.

Explaining why India has not signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, Mr Gandhi said it is discriminatory and degrading to the nations which sign it. The prime minister said India is perhaps the only country in the world which has shown that one can have a nuclear capability but need not go nuclear.

Referring to the situation in Southern Africa, Mr Gandhi called upon countries supporting apartheid economically or otherwise to open their eyes and stop doing so. He said India has always backed the struggle of the people of South Africa and of the Frontline States against apartheid.

About the Africa Fund of which he is chairman, Mr Gandhi said it has been doing well. Its assets have to be conserved so that the Frontline States could be helped economically.

About the Nonaligned Movement [NAM], Mr Gandhi said it has moved well recently. He doubted the wisdom of having a permanent secretariat for NAM.

Of India's bid for 1994 Commonwealth Games, the prime minister said India has the infrastructure and the capability to hold the games.

K.C. Pant Delivers Independence Day Message

BK1508164388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has emphasized the importance of strong and well-equipped Armed Forces to preserve the country's freedom. In his Independence Day broadcast to the Armed Forces this evening, he assured that the government is taking concrete steps to procure the latest and best possible equipment.

He said at the same time self-sufficiency in defense production is a basic requirement for preserving the country's freedom. Steps have been taken in this direction also.

Mr Pant praised the role of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] in implementation of the India-Sri Lanka agreement, which, he said, is necessary to ensure permanent peace in the island nation. He said the PKF has shown exceptional courage, discipline, and devotion to duty, which has brought peace in some parts of the country.

USSR To Assist in West Bengal Oil Drilling

BK1608095988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The minister of state for petroleum and natural gas, Mr Brahm Dutt, informed the Lok Sabha that the Soviet Union is to provide technical assistance to the ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] in drilling a well near Sonarpur, 24 Parganas, in West Bengal.

The work is expected to be taken up by the end of this year. The Soviet Union is also to assist India in drilling wells at five other locations in West Bengal.

The Lok Sabha was also informed that the ONGC is to undertake a drilling assignment in Vietnam and the proposal for this is being examined by the government.

The Lok Sabha was informed today that six Indian firms have signed agreements with a Soviet organization to start joint ventures in India. The items mainly relate to agricultural and allied processed food.

Iran's Lavasani Briefs Gandhi on Cease-Fire

LD1208195788 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani in a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi Friday submitted him a message from his Iranian counterpart Hoseyn Musavi.

Lavasani also briefed Gandhi on Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's recent talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 which seeks to end the Iraqi-imposed war.

The deputy foreign minister also underlined the importance of the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean as regions free from foreign forces and said regional security warrants a more active involvement by the Indian Government.

In response, the Indian premier announced his country's preparedness to help implement U.N. Resolution 598 and wished for a lasting peace in the region.

Earlier Thursday, Lavasani held talks with Indian minister of state for foreign affairs and his deputy on ways of promoting mutual ties.

The 5th joint Tehran-New Delhi commission is to be held in Tehran shortly with the participation of the foreign ministers of the two countries.

Pro-Pakistani Demonstrators Fight Kashmir Police

BK1508150288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Aug 15 (AFP)—Pro-Pakistani demonstrators fought running street battles with police in Indian-held Kashmir during Indian Independence Day celebrations Monday leaving at least 75 injured, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Police fired warning shots after tear-gas and baton-charges failed to disperse the Muslim demonstrators, who carried out arson attacks and threw stones, PTI said. At least 75 people were injured in the clashes, the news agency added.

Deputy Inspector General of Police V. Aivali was quoted as saying that the trouble in Srinagar, the capital of the disputed border state of Jammu and Kashmir, first erupted Sunday.

Pro-Pakistani activists celebrated Pakistan Independence Day Sunday by raising the Pakistani flag.

On Monday police fired in the air in Srinagar's Boohrikadal and Garafkadal areas to disperse protestors chanting pro-Pakistani slogans, Mr. Aivali said.

In another area, demonstrators torched a police jeep and attacked and damaged a vehicle of a senior civil administrator, PTI said. [passage omitted]

25 Policemen Injured

BK1608025788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, one police jeep was set on fire and 25 policemen were injured yesterday in downtown area of Srinagar when they tried to disperse a violent group of miscreants. They were forcing the shopkeepers to close the shutters.

According to the divisional commissioner of Srinagar, five persons have been arrested . The situation is now under control.

Memorandum To End Tripura Insurgency Signed

BK1208133088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] A memorandum of settlement has been signed with the Tripura National Volunteers, TNV, bringing to an end the insurgency and violence in Tripura.

The memorandum signed in New Delhi today provides for deposit of arms and ammunition, ending of underground activities by TNV, rehabilitation of undergrounds, reservation of seats for tribals in the state assembly, restoration of alienated lands to tribals, and redrawing of the boundaries of autonomous district council area. It also provides for measures to prevent infiltration and for long-term economic development of the state.

The memorandum was signed by the additional secretary of the union home ministry, the chief secretary of Tripura, and the TNV president, Mr B.K. Rangkhal, and five of his colleagues. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, and the chief minister, Mr Sudhir Ranjan Majumdar, were present.

Both houses of parliament received the announcement with loud cheers. The statemen was made by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, in the Lok Sabha, and the minister of state for home, Mr Santosh Mohan Dev, in the Rajya Sabha. Copies of the memorandum were placed in the parliament.

The Government of India has cancelled the notification declaring TNV as unlawful association.

Details of Agreement

BK1308044588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Excerpts] A memorandum of settlement has been signed with the Tripura National Volunteers, TNV, bringing to an end the insurgency and violence in Tripura.

The memorandum signed in New Delhi today provides for depositing of arms and ammunition, ending of underground activities by TNV, rehabilitation of those who have been underground, reservation of seats for tribals in the state assembly, restoration of alienated lands of the tribals, and redrawing of the boundaries of autonomous district council area. [passage omitted]

Under the memorandum the TNV has undertaken to end underground activities and bring out all underground TNV men with their arms, ammunition, and equipment within a month. It will ensure that there is no resort to violence and will help in the restoration of amity among different sections of the people.

It will not extend support to any other extremist group in any manner. The memorandum also provides for reservation of 20 seats for the scheduled tribes in the state assembly. This will not affect the existing house till it is dissolved.

It has also been agreed that measures will be taken for restoration of alienated lands for tribals and bring tribal majority villages which fall outside the autonomous district council into the district. Non-tribal majority villages presently in the autonomous district and on the periphery will be taken out.

Various measures listed in the memorandum for long-term economic development of the state include a special intensive recruitment drive by police and paramilitary forces to enlist as many tribal youths as possible. All India Radio will increase the duration and content of its program in tribal languages or dialects of Tripura.

Additional transmitting stations will be set up in remote areas. Rice, salt, and kerosene will be given at subsidized rate during the lean months for a period of 3 years. At least 2,500 junior [as heard] families will be rehabilitated in five or more centers. Efforts are to be made for effective implementation of the provisions of the sixth schedule of the constitution relating to Tripura.

In a statement, [Home Minister] Mr Buta Singh said talks with the TNV delegation started at the initiative of the prime minister as the TNV had fulfilled two preconditions. These were that the talks should be held within the constitutional framework and that violent activities must cease. He pointed out that the thrust of the settlement is in safeguarding the interest of the tribals. It will act as a catalyst for strengthening relations between the tribals and non-tribals.

Replying to members in the Rajya Sabha, [Minister of State for Home] Mr Santosh Mohan Dev said the Army will not be kept in Tripura a day longer than it is needed. He refuted the opposition allegation that the Army was deployed for the elections. He told the house that the government is working on schemes for the rehabilitation of those who have come overground.

The governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has congratulated the TNV chief, Mr Rangkhal, and hoped there will be peace and prosperity on an enduring basis. The chief minister, Mr Sudhir Ranjan Majumdar, said he is happy that a peaceful chapter is beginning.

The TNV leader, Mr Rangkhal, has said signing of the memorandum has given the hope that the tribal people of Tripura will advance rapidly and realize their aspirations fully. In an interview to Radio Newsreel, he said the TNV will participate in the development of the state and join the mainstream of national life.

Rebel Chiefs Hail Agreement

BK1308160788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] The leader of the Tripura National Volunteers [TNV], Mr Rangkhal, has indicated that a peace camp will be set up in the 2d week of next month to facilitate underground volunteers to come overg round [as heard] and surrender their arms.

Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said this will be completed within a month as provided in the memorandum. Mr Rangkhal said the tripartite agreement signed yesterday has the sanction of all the rank and file of the TNV. He said he is fully satisfied with the agreement and wholly convinced it is the best course.

Replying to a question, he rejected the CPI-M's charge that the TNV is the creation of the Congress-I. Mr Rangkhal said we are nobody's creation. He said rehabilitation of the volunteers and improvement of the tribal people's lot will receive his urgent attention.

Earlier a delegation of TNV led by Mr Rangkhal met the prime minister in New Delhi and assured him of their full cooperation in implementing the agreement. He also thanked Mr Gandhi for the Center's help in solving the decade-long tangle.

Gujarat State Assembly Member Killed in Gondal

BK1508090288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] In Gujarat, Mr Popat Lal Suratia, Congress-I MLA [member of the Legislative Assembly], was shot dead at Gondal this morning. According to the police, Mr Suratia was fired upon when he was distributing prizes at a school after the [Independence Day] flag-hoisting ceremony.

He was rushed to a local hospital and later to the government hospital in Rajkot where he succumbed to his head injuries. The assailant has been arrested.

Mr Popat Lal represented Gondal constituency and was a noted cooperative and farmer leader. The Gujarat governor, Mr R.K. Trivedi, and chief minister, Mr Amar Sinh Chaudhari, have strongly condemned the killing.

18 United Akali Dal Members Released 14 Aug

BK1408134788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] In Chandigarh, 18 United Akali Dal Leaders arrested by the police for apprehension of breach of peace during May this year, were released today. They include the former Akal Takht [highest Sikh religious seat] chief by the SGPC about 2 months back.

Punjab Governor on Golden Temple 'Sanctuary'

BK1608031288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] In Amritsar, four former high priests, including Mr Jasbir Singh Rhode, were released last evening. This follows the Punjab government's decision to release all those arrested during May this year as a gesture of goodwill. They were arrested in apprehension of breach of peace during the operation by the security forces to flush out terrorists from the Golden Temple complex.

Four persons, including three home guards, were shot dead by terrorists in Jullundhur District late last night. Terrorists attacked the house of a farmer in village Mund and killed his son and three home guards. The home guards were posted at the farmer's residence following threat by terrorists. Meanwhile, two terrorists were killed in an encounter with the police near (Pahowa) in Haryana. Two of their accomplices managed to escape.

The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has said every possible step will be taken to prevent the Golden Temple complex from becoming again a sanctuary for terrorists.

Talking to newsmen in Ludhiana, he urged the SGPC to cooperate with the government toward this end. He said no one will like a repetition of what had happened in the temple complex before the terrorists were flushed out by the security forces.

Punjab 'Terrorist' Escapes Police Custody

BK1608092788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The Haryana police have arrested three terrorists in Ambala. The terrorists were going to Delhi from Amritsar in a truck. The state home minister, Mr Sampat Singh, told our Chandigarh correspondent that some arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

Two terrorists were killed in an encounter with the police near Bahowa.

In Punjab, a hard-core terrorist, Makhan Singh, escaped from police custody near Fillour in Jullundur District this morning. According to police sources, Makhan Singh escaped while he was being taken to a village for recovery of arms.

Former Premier Desai Chosen for Pakistani Award

BK1408100388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] The former prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, has been chosen for the highest Pakistani award—Nishan-i Pakistan—for his commitment and service to the cause of promotion of better relations between Pakistan and India. The award has been conferred on the occasion of Pakistan's 42d Independence Day today.

Morarji Desai Thanks Ziaul Haq

BK1508124588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The former prime minister of India, Mr Morarji Desai, has attributed his selection for Pakistan's highest award, Nishan-i Pakistan, to his good relations with Pakistan.

In a newspaper interview in Bombay, he said India, as a big country in the region, should keep good relations with all its neighbors. Mr Desai thanked President Mohammad Ziaul Haq for conferring the award.

Congress-I Assails Motives

BK1508024588 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] The AICC-I has said that Pakistan recognizing the services of Mr Morarji Desai to Indo-Pakistan relations 10 years after he ceased to be the prime minister of India, indicates General Ziaul Haq's penchant for cheap publicity.

A statement signed by the general secretary AICC-I, Mr K.N. Singh, said that progressive and democratic forces in Pakistan will immediately recollect that from General Ziaul Haq's point of view the greatest service of Mr Desai was his refusal to join Indira Gandhi and other world leaders in their efforts to save the life of the elected Prime Minister Bhutto.

In the context of the life and death struggle in Pakistan for democratic rules, General Ziaul Haq's action will be looked upon with utter cynicism by the people. It is significant that General Ziaul Haq remembers the Janata rule with nostalgia when once again an attempt is being made to try another Janata experience.

No doubt Mr Morarji Desai is a respected leader but to confer this honor on him at this juncture when Pakistan is aiding and abetting terrorists in Punjab is a crude attempt at public relations, the statement said.

Desai Expected To Reject Award

BK1608100188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The AICC-I says that it was expected that Mr Morarji Desai would reject the Nishan-i Pakistan title offered by General Ziaul Haq with the contempt that it deserves.

In a statement issued in New Delhi today, the party general secretary, Mr K.N. Singh, said Gen Ziaul Haq is bent upon aiding and abetting the terrorists in Punjab, and the offer of the honor to Mr Desai is also a part of Gen Ziaul Haq's design of interference in the internal affairs of the country.

Briefs

Illicit Poppy Cultivation

The Center has asked the state governments to conduct surveys of suspected areas of illicit poppy cultivation and take effective steps to destroy such crop. This information was given by the minister of state for finance, Mr Ajit Kumar Panja, in the Rajya Sabha today. In a written reply, the minister said that illicit poppy cultivation has been reported from the Chakrata Tehsil [district zone] of Dehra Dun, and from a few villages of Uttarkashi District of Uttar Pradesh, besides some villages in Himachal Pradesh. The Narcotics Control Bureau in collaboration with enforcement agencies of Uttar Pradesh undertook two major operations, one in 1987 and the other in the current year, in the Chakrata area. One hundred and fifty-two cultivators have been booked for prosecution by the state government. [Text] [*BK1608105588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Aug 88*]

Iran

Velayati Letter Warns of Imminent Iraqi Attacks

LD1608112288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] During a meeting with the UN secretary general, Mr Mahallati, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the UN, submitted a letter from our country's foreign minister. The letter warns that Iraq intends to launch a series of military operations in the air, on land, and at sea, before the cease-fire.

Mr Velayati pointed out in the letter that Iran has accepted the request of the secretary general and the president of the UN Security Council to refrain from military operations. Iraq has not only refused to respond to this request, but it has resorted to aggression against. One such instance was brought to the attention of the UN secretary general.

The letter further says: In view of Iraq's behavior during the past few weeks, it is necessary for the secretary general and the Security Council to take serious measures as a preliminary step toward lasting peace and to save those acting on behalf of the secretary general and the Security Council from danger.

They should inform Iran of the decisions they make so that, in view of actions of the international community, the Islamic Republic can decide the method of its response vis-a-vis Iraq's serious threats against Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Airbus Inquiry Leaves 'Unanswered Questions'

LD1508110188 Tehran IRNA in English 1059 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] London, Aug. 15, IRNA—The Pentagon is backing away from disciplinary action against U.S. officers responsible for last month's shooting down of an Iranian Airbus and may even resort to further whitewash its partisan findings, according to reports from Washington.

The inquiry report, partly leaked last week, is already flawed with many unanswered questions over how the USS Vincennes, reputably with the world's most advanced radar system, missile-attacked the passenger airliner on a routine flight, killing all 290 on board.

THE WASHINGTON POST Sunday believed the U.S. investigation still had to explain how the $500 million worth of high-technology could have misinterpreted the data.

The Vincennes originally tried to claim the A-300 Airbus was an F-14 fighter a quarter of its size and that it was diving for an "attack" while less sophistica ted U.S. warships nearby correctly made out it was a civilian airliner climbing in a commercial air corridor.

The report attributes blame to "human error" but according to the paper, Pentagon officials are recommending "no disciplinary action" other than a mild reprimand of the ship's unnamed operations officer which would not even appear on his personnel file.

The 1,000-page findings are due to be presented to Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci this week, but by the time an "unclassified" version is made available to the public, the officials reckon they may be even further "changed" during a complicated review process.

The inclination is that no one wants to take a hard line against any high officials, including the commander of the U.S. force in the Persian Gulf Admiral Less, who gave permission in advance to the Vincennes Captain Rogers to fire on the Airbus.

Above Admiral Less is the chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Admiral William Crowe, whose orginal asertions have been found to be inaccurate in almost every respect and the paper suggested that this had put the investigating team in an embarrassing position of having to "contradict the nation's highest officer."

The London GUARDIAN said Monday that the decision not to take disciplinary action was a "remarkable display of lenciency" but where the Pentagon has already shown that it has "great relutance to punish its own."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Defense Conference
LD1108133088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0910 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Speech by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the 10 August closing session of the conference on aggression and defense in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] I would like to welcome the esteemed guests of the conference, guests from abroad and from home. I would also like to thank those who have worked hard to prepare their seminar papers and we hope that the papers presented at this conference will influence future history and international relations.

Furthermore, we hope they will be able to solve some of the problems from which society is suffering as the consequences of unjust relations. I was in close touch with the proceedings at this conference and in the overview I just heard, it appears that various aspects of the most important issues have been covered. [passage omitted]

This point in history serves as an important crucible for recognition of the currents which govern the world and interrelations among the people; in this crucible mankind can learn lessons which cannot be learned easily elsewhere.

This war has features which have not existed before. The first feature is that this war did not break out between two well-established and mobilized countries; instead a revolution, a fully principled, popular, and isolated revolution was on the one side, and an affiliated regime dependent on the major powers of the world and ready for war on the other side. You know that an arms race existed between Iran and Iraq before the revolution. Iraq was already prepared for a confrontation with Iran. At the same time Iraq had confronted Israel from the other side.

A government which had invested a large part of its country's resources in its military forces was ruling Iraq, therefore. Iran under the former regime was also seriously involved in this arms race, had allocated large resources for this purpose, and had the upper hand compared with Iraq because it was relying on the United States and on NATO; NATO's power was superior.

After the collapse of the former regime in Iran, however, the people and revolution could not make full use of the said military power. The former regime relied on its military potential, and naturally after its departure some problems arose in Iran. Iran's armed forces lost their former management corps. Previously, the Iranian armed forces had been receiving training and guidance from U.S. experts and from U.S. and British military advisors. After the revolution Iran could not yet make use of high level expertise in the army. Many of the army commanders were either pawns of the United States or counterrevolutionaries.

Therefore, we can conclude that despite the existence of large facilities in Iran after the revolution, these facilities were not easily accessible to the people and to the revolution. Iraq had everything prepared, and Iran had equipment which needed time to become useful. That is, time was needed for the lower rank army personnel to learn how to operate this equipment.

The situation was that we were still busy purging the army—the army generals had fled and many of them had disappeared. The U.S. experts who had left were not replaced, and many contracts which had been signed to complete the might of the Army were abrogated by Bakhtiar during the few days before the revolution. [passage omitted]

When the war broke out, the USSR, as a neighboring power, did not make any move at all. It hatched some sort of conspiracy. Our neighbors in the south were pleased. Well, history has recorded all this and we wait to see what will happen. When the tables were turned and we had the upper hand, the situation changed and so did the stances.

I wonder whether you can find another example in contemporary history where a revolution gains victory single-handed without relying on any foreign power and immediately after the revolution, when it is facing the teething problems of the early revolution days, such a barbaric war is imposed on it?

Some important conclusions can be reached in this matter. I personally would like to mention my own conclusions first. The gentlemen and ladies can draw

their own conclusions during the discussion. We see today that the world is facing difficulties because of a shortage of regulations and supervisory organizations.

Although I accept this agreement to some extent, I do not believe that this is the main problem. I believe that the main problem arises from the shortage of pious people among the leading figures of the world's major powers. Pious figures can implement justice in the world. But look at the kinds of people who are rulers in the world, the people who hold the strings of power in their hands. No matter how much we write just laws for the world, we will not be able to provide justice in the world with such people. That is the basic problem from which humanity is suffering.

Of course, if you try to remove the faults of international regulations, that is a good thing. We are not against that. Things are the same within a society. If you hand a society over to a group of power-hungry aggressors, then no matter how many laws there are, no matter how just the laws are, the laws will be neglected or interpreted in a biased way. That is how the world is now.

The big world family has given power to and is being administered by people who do not seek right and justice. If they sought right and justice, they would be able to manage the world justly with the currently existing institutions and with those same regulations, and some of those regulations may actuallly be quite powerful.

Now we will give some examples of the injustices of the war. You have heard them mentioned undoubtedly, but in order to develop the discussion, we are forced to give some examples. Otherwise, I would not think it necessary to repeat things which have been mentioned many times.

From the moment the war began, although we were innocent and the attacked side, and although the world favors the victim in international and human regulations, and although world circles think it is right for a victim to resort to any means in order to defend itself, we prefered to adhere to principles. Our reason is this—we still have the same idea, and we will continue to do so in the future—we are a cultural revolution before being a political or economic revolution.

We had a revolution for the sake of that same problem of the people, the problem which is currently the world's shortfall. Now, I do not know to what extent we will attain our goal. However, the main goal of the Islamic revolution is to make good men; exactly the same aim as the prophets had. The main aim of the prophets, His Holiness Moses, His Holiness Jesus, His Holiness Abraham, His Holiness the Messenger of God, our own prophet and others, was to make mature human beings. Pure human beings can open the way for themselves. They can guard justice in society.

That is the aim of the revolution. Since that is the aim, we must always be careful to avoid those things which defeat the morale of the people and which corrupt them and create doubts in the hearts of people. We have stood by that principle.

I am not saying that during 8 years of war, along all the fronts and in all confrontations no indisgression has occured at the hands of our soldiers. No one can control everything on such a scale. However, that was the foundation of the revolution. Our defense was based on that. From the start we decided to insist in our defense on the principles in which we believe and for which we had a revolution. [passage omitted]

From the first day we told the Iraqi civilians, you are guests. Whenever you like, you may return to Iraq. Then you saw how Iraq massacered its own people in that tragic way with chemical bombs in its own city, the city that we took, Halabja. Well, fighting is very difficult with these two very different attitudes. A person who adheres to principles and who wants to uphold everything finds his hands tied. Whereas for that enemy everything is easy. Nothing poses an obstacle to the military action he wishes to take. [passage omitted]

We have always stood by our principle, and we are still standing by it. We believe that that is our victory. The path which we chose in our revolution, for which we had a revolution, and along which we want to shape our people, that path has not changed in the slightest. Of course, God has protected it. A human being may lose his capacity for endurance in difficult conditions, but the Iranian nation, the entire leadership of Iran, and the leadership of the revolution have stood by their principles. People will study this history one day, and those who want to learn something, will.

We regard ourselves as completely victorious; we think that we have maintained our principles. We regard those who have adopted an unjust stance as defeated. We also think that history will record it as a lesson for future generations. These issues will eventually be discussed. Even now many remarks are being made. These things are not unknown. Many of the intellectuals of the world, just individuals, even some members of corrupt press and corrupt mass media being used as a tool to promote word imperialism make correct remarks from time to time.

Well, no one can deny the fact that we engaged in defense. Even the Iraqis—although they wish to distort the matter—admit that they invaded Iranian soil. But they say that they were provoked. This is a strange claim about a revolution which has recently been made victorious, a revolution which is purging the armed forces from within, which is purging the police, which has the problem of purging the intelligence organizations, the problem of numerous minigroups from the right and the left.

During the first few years of the revolution, everyone knew that we were faced with armed resistance inside our country. When the revolution took place, the barracks were ransacked. The leftist groups were well-organized inside Iran in those days while the nation, the mass of the people who had carried out the revolution, were not organized. The leftist forces attacked the barracks and plundered them and armed themselves fully. When they realized that they did not enjoy a majority in the elections, they started attacking the people. Each day we were faced with assassinations, with explosions, with coups d'etat. The Nowzheh coup d'etat took place a few weeks before the war.

For a person who is familiar with the world of politics, merely imagining that Iran would have so much internal control to want to go to Iraq and to incite people in Iraq so soon after the revolution is nonsensical. Of course, we might have said something; we have always expressed our ideas and do so even now. We always said openly what we expected from the revolution. However, most certainly, the revolution was not ready at the time to want to implement a plan in a neighboring country, and everyone knows that this is so.

Our armed forces were not even ready for defense. The claim that we were engaged in incitement and decided to do certain things in Iraq is not acceptable, except to the extent of announcing the stances of the revolution. This cannot be regarded as an offense according to any logic, according to any reasoning, that a revolution or an ideology would wish to express its views to the world.

Launching the war was aimed precisely at the destruction of the revolution; the reason for this was that neither the East nor the West were pleased with our revolution. The West, which had the greatest interests in Iran—I mean the NATO powers—regarded this revolution as directly opposed to their interests.

The East, which was hoping to make use of the vacuum created as a result of the lack of a justice-seeking sovereignty in Islamic countries, and of the lack of a proper system among those nations, was paving the way for the influence of Marxism. When they saw that Islam had raised its head for the sake of implementing justice, and when they heard justice-seeking slogans from the mouth of Islam—which is the most beloved asset the people possess—they soon discovered that they were losing ground for the expansion of Marxism in Iran and in the Islamic world.

It is a fact that after the Islamic revolution, Marxist and communist movements completely lost their momentum in Islamic societies. If anyone is to judge correctly, one sees that the course of Marxism collapsed all of a sudden with the start of the Islamic revolution and the victory of Islam in Iran. If one looks deeply, one sees that it suddenly dropped by 40 degrees. [sentence as heard]

Today Marxist slogans do not find favor in any of the Islamic countries. This lack of favor is not due to the success of capitalism; capitalism has not presented anything which can eliminate Marxism. What has happened is that young Muslims who cut themselves off from the Koran for the sake of achieving justice, realized that there is more justice in the Koran than anywhere else and that it is deeper and more fundamental.

The Marxists were displeased with this revolution. The capitalists were displeased with this revolution. As for the reactionaries of the region, they are a bunch of self-serving, lecherous individuals lacking any ideology; it is clear that they were displeased with the revolution because they saw the fate of the shah was awaiting them. Therefore, our enemies were those who possessed power, and they found a suitable element in our region—the Ba'thist party of Iraq—which was also threatened by the same thing which had threatened the shah in Iran. The attitude of the Iraqi people toward their government and their relations with it was the same as the attitude of the Iranian people toward the shah.

Therefore, it seemed that the first place where the Islamic revolution would be established would be Iraq. The Iraqi people also intensified their movement due to the same hope; but the Iraqi Government blamed this on us. The Iraqi people witnessed this revolution, and they thought that if it happened in Iran, why could it not happen in Iraq. The Iraqi Government regarded the war as the only solution. The point is not that Iran was engaged in incitement there, the point is that in order to prevent this revolution, in order to sow despair among the peoples of other countries, in order to prevent this revolution from finding its way to other places, they decided to bring about such conditions in Iran that others would say it cannot be done. [sentence as heard]

One of the aspects of the war was that the West, perhaps, never wanted to attack Iran for being Iran. They still think they have interests in Iran. In order to crush the revolution, in order to bring the revolution under control, they were prepared to give the task to Iraq. On that point, the East and West, Marxism and western imperialism, came together. In other words, their aims converged in this regard, and Saddam was at the point of convergence. They began exerting pressure on Iran from that point.

What is strange is that that cruel and disgraceful aggression did not arouse any serious objection from the world. On that day no one could have claimed that the Islamic revolution of Iran was not pure, because nearly 99 percent of the people voted for the constitution and said yes to the Islamic revolution. Our greatest enemies accepted it as the wish of the people.

Now if someone does not accept Islam, if someone does not accept revolution, at least the Westerners who place great store in democracy and on the standards in accordance with which they live could see that here we had

democracy in its best sense, according to the will of the people. Where, in what western country or in what country in the world can you see 99 percent of the people, 90 percent, 85 percent, a majority of such magnitude, support their leadership in such a way?

Now, after the passage of 10 years, 9 years and a bit, since the revolution and after all the hardships which have been imposed on our revolution—if only you, our guests, had been in Iran on the day of renewed allegiance to the Imam. You could have seen what was going on in Iran, even though the analysts in your press were saying that there was now a distance between the people and the Imam, that the people were tired. [passage omitted]

Well, a revolution was attacked in that way. Why did the world not show a proper response? People who want to find a correct reply to that question may never find it. The real reply is that the resentment against Islam, the resentment against someone who threatened the interests of the big powers, blinded them and they were silent. That was at the start of the war.

It took about a year and a bit before we gained complete composure. We were able to put our defense lines in order, to train our human resources to a greater extent, and to launch our own attacks. As soon as we had undertaken several offensives and Iraq began to be defeated on the battlefield, after Bayt al-Moqaddas and the others, after we had retaken Khoramshahr, when the world realized that we were on the advance, we started hearing serious whispers about halting the war. It is a source of disgrace for the world, for world history, that when a revolution is attacked it rejoices, and when a revolution succeeds, when it defends itself and drives back the aggressor, it starts interfering.

We have nothing to say to what you and history will think, but I know the fact for myself. I know of no greater disgrace for those who have such claims to democracy and to human rights than what happened in this stretch of history.

Gradually, as Iraq sensed total defeat and saw our determination in pursuit of our aim, it began doing improper things given international regulations, each one of which was sufficient reason for the world to take a stand against it and to tie its hands. That did not happen.

From the beginning we have raised one issue. Today, too, we will raise the issue. We said that with respect to the aggressor, we want justice. We do not want Iraqi territory. We are even prepared to invest in Iraqi territory. We knew that even if we conquered Iraq militarily, that would just be the beginning of the problem. Then Iran would have to do something for the Iraqi nation. It would have to solve Iraq's domestic problems. Two war-torn countries would then have expected support from Iran. That was clear to us.

We wanted just one thing: justice. An aggressor who has trodden all principles underfoot should be punished. That is precisely what we are saying today. Today, having accepted the resolution, we accepted it in the hope that as they told us, they are serious about the committee to identify the aggressor. God forbid that anything should happen to make us feel that they have lied to us. If such a feeling develops in our nation, it could have unpleasant consequences for the region.

We are saying just one thing: If on that very day, that is 7 years ago, when we moved toward our borders, they had come and told us in earnest that the committee would be formed and if the United Nations had taken that step initially and established the committee, we would have accepted it on that very day.

We said this from the very beginning, and we are still pursuing this. We believe that if a real peace is to be established in the region and if the region and the world are to benefit from a good peace in the region, this is the way. In the end people who want peace, who want security in the region, must insist on it.

Even when we had the upper hand, we always took care not to do anything unprincipled, not to act against our principles. It is very sweet for us. When we read the history of the war, we see that God gave us the endurance not to lose our patience and not to trend principles underfoot like Iraq. That is very beautiful for us. We think that our movement is history-making and humanizing. In the final analysis it will have its effect on people who seek justice, even though the world's propaganda trumpets always overshadow the bright spark and soft voice of justice and right.

You know that for the past several years the Iraqis have been using chemical weapons. You know that they struck our cities. You know that 2 or 3 days earlier—even as the Security Council was issuing its verdict—they dropped chemical bombs on Oshnoviyeh poisoning some 2,000 people. They do the same inside Iraq as well.

And you know—if all the people may not know—that production of chemical weapons and obtaining chemical materials is not a difficult job for a country like Iran. With its great pharmaceutical factories and very high-level chemical experts, Iran does not find it difficult to do this. [passage omitted] Why did we not manufacture chemical weapons? Well now, the world must make a judgment here. The world must distinguish between the aggressor and the defender.

It was the Iraqis who started the war of the cities—and still continue. The strike against Oshnoviyeh was their latest move. Meanwhile, the cities of Iraq, most of them, are within the range of our artillery. That is to say, in the war of the cities, in reality, we held the upper hand. The city of Basra with its 1 million inhabitants was within

our mortars' range; yet we hit it only when Iraq resorted to escalating the war of the cities. Our action was to serve as a deterrent. [passage omitted]

Striking civilians was not compatible with our ideals and principles. During their latest visit, the UN researchers were very precise. The Iraqis resorted to staging shows by exposing some of their soldiers to chemical materials, showing those who were poisoned in battle, and showing stocks which they said were chemical weapons captured from Iran. The UN experts were very careful. Now you witnessed that the UN researchers said that they had seen Iraqi soldiers injured by chemicals but added that it was not clear how they were injured.

If Iraq could show any such thing it would have certainly have done so to prove it, if it had anything with which to do so. Now I must tell you that the Islamic Republic has the power to manufacture all sorts of chemical materials which are customary in the armies of the world. The Islamic Republic has the capacity for mass production, but it did not use it against the Iraqi nation. This stems from being committed to principles.

The world can learn so many lessons in this Persian Gulf on how to tell the aggressor from the defender. If the world powers had a tiny bit of justice and human conscience, they would have learned humility. Oil tankers pass in front of us over a course of 1,000 kilometers, going to ports which serve as logistics centers for Iraq; that is, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the rest of those countries. These oil tankers are passing each day by the observation posts of our naval units, of our aircraft.

During the past 8 years, the Islamic Republic has indicated that it has safeguarded the security of the Persian Gulf, acting only within the strict limits of reciprocal moves. Had we had the same mentality as the Ba'thists, or had we thought like the Americans and the Russians, if from the start we had resorted to adventurism in the Persian Gulf, it would have cost the region very dearly. And yet, we did not do so. [passage omitted]

We stick to our principles. It is really a strange thing. I wonder whether the conscience of the people of America is not ashamed of such a government ruling over them—a government which comes to the Persian Gulf and tells us that we should allow Iraq to hit our ships and our ports from which we export oil and yet not retaliate. This logic which the United States uses tells us to witness 350,000 tons of oil being exported each day by tankers from the neutral zone—between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia—and that oil is sold to buy weapons which are then brought to the very same ports, to Iraq, and then used against us.

And yet the United States tells us not to retaliate. I really don't know if the U.S. nation can create a file on these kinds of issues. Or does it think that the superpowers have more money than anyone else and more arms, and therefore whatever decision they make is the right decision? This gross injustice—siding with mischief, protecting dishonesty, and binding the hands of the aggrieved and the defender—these are things, the likes of which one has to look for in the era of the Zahhaks, [mythical tyrant in ancient Persian literature], the Ghenghis Khans, the Nimrods, and the Hitlers, in the history of mankind.

One should not expect these issues to exist in the world, at a time when there is a United Nations, a Security Council, and a UNESCO which claims to raise the level of the global cultural achievement. [passage omitted]

How many passenger airliners have they hit during this period; you saw that we did not get any appropriate reactions, even from those in charge of safeguarding civilian air routes. When our airbus crashed, the Americans admitted that the machinery of the warship did not make a mistake, but that the airliner was on course, that it was in the process of climbing and not descending, and that it was not showing any signs of being a threat. We continue to hear that in the United States, people are signing petitions in support of the captain of the warship over this great mistake—in their opinion, this was a mistake.

We do not accept that this was a mistake. We see this as a way of carrying out a threatening instruction, as a warning to us and to the people of the region, to make it known to us that if we insist on continuing to defend ourselves, they are prepared to go as far as possible.

They wanted to demonstrate that their savagery knows no bounds and limits when their interests are being threatened. We don't know how a nation which is considered to be civilized, since it sees itself as the flag-bearer of freedom in the world, can be convinced and accept that 290 persons could be eliminated in such a defenseless way by their officials. And how the air line routes, which are used by the United States more than anyone, could be threatened in such a way. [sentence as heard]

They know that if nations of the world decide to render air routes insecure, they all have the power to do so now. The source of danger in the world is when rebellious people who are disappointed with justice decide to render airline routes insecure. They will make the whole world unsafe. Thus, they should think about this security more than anyone else. [passage omitted]

This region is a bad testing ground for the world powers, both for the West and East. For us, the Russians are also disgraced; they are to a great extent criminals too. We know that 70-80 percent of Iraqi arms belong to the Russians. The Russians—despite being our neighbors and many other things—just because Iran is not prepared to support a puppet government in Afghanistan, and just because Iran gives refuge to Afghans who come across to Iran and because Iran looks after them, the

Russians are cross. They tell us explicitly: Afghanistan for Iraq. If a just conscience ruled over the world, it would find this just stance of the Islamic revolution astonishing.

You cannot find in history a nation which has carried out a revolution and made such self-sacrifices for its own interests. If we had made some concessions in Afghanistan, we would have been given some concessions in Iraq. Yes, you should know. If, like other countries, like Syria or Libya or like any others that we even accept, if we even adopted the same approach as the Soviet Union toward Afghanistan and endorsed the Soviet Union's position in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union would not have given so many arms to Iraq. In the first place, they would have also given us some.

But we were committed to our principles. We are not willing, under any conditions, to allow a nation to be trampled on by a superpower—like what is happening in Afghanistan—to support the oppressor or even to remain silent. We shall not do this, no matter who is involved and what the price. If any decent person ruled in the West, he would have understood this matter; he would have understood our position. [passage omitted]

Now a new test has come about with the new position we have adopted in the Security Council and in the United Nations—a new test. They had a pretext and they deceived public opinion saying: Iran seeks war; Iran does not accept the resolution; they distorted what we said. We were saying that we had not rejected the resolution; we do not have confidence in you; you should implement the sixth clause of the resolution which provides for the formation of an impartial committee for identifying the aggressor. We said that you should first implement this, declare it; then we shall accept the resolution. But they behaved in such a way that we had a preference—not everyone knows the reason for our preference—we shall tell them later.

We preferred to pass over that stance and say: Clause six of the resolution should be implemented in the order in which it stands. We accepted the implementation project of the UN secretary general. Now we will see what will be done. In the preliminary testing steps, many things were clarified. Iraq has been paying lip service to peace for 7 years now. As soon as it felt that Iran had accepted the resolution from a position of weakness, you saw for yourselves what mischief it got up to.

When we decided to lessen our military moves and began political moves, it did what it could not do during the war by starting to come into Iranian territory; it is still holding on to some places it has captured but not others. This is after we accepted the resolution. This is a reality about which we were talking for 7 years and which your media did not believe.

We said that Saddam is lying when he says he wants peace. When did it accept? When it saw that it was mistaken that Iran was not weak from the military standpoint. Saddam made two mistakes. One was that he believed our forces were tired and would not fight; the other was that he believed that there was a division between our people and their leader. So he began his mischief.

We told the people that this was the situation and you saw how, immediately, people rushed on an unprecedented scale to the battlefronts. I should tell our guests: Not at any time, in the course of this war, have popular forces been present on the battlefronts to such an extent. There are so many forces on the battlefronts that, without being adequately prepared, we are not finding it easy to supply them with water, bread, and ice.

In their renewed allegiance, the people showed that they are with their leadership. Our combatants also put pressure on the Iraqis and kicked them out of the areas they had captured. On the battlefronts we showed that we had not accepted anything due to weakness; there were other reasons for our acceptance of the resolution. In our popular scenes we demonstrated that our people are not tired at all, that they are ready for defense, and in the Security Council we proved that we are sincere about what we say, that it is not a tactic.

Iraq did not realize that if it put pressure on us, the situation would return to what it was in previous years. As a result, it did not accept the resolution. Now some people claim that the United States applied pressure, or the Soviet Union, or world public opinion. We do not accept such remarks. Of course it is possible that they applied pressure; we are not saying that they did not apply pressure.

However, what forced Iraq to retreat and withdraw its demand for direct negotiations before the cease-fire was that it realized it could not achieve anything in the battlefield and had to return to the previous situation. It has spies here; Mojahedin-e Khalq, the Tudeh members, the Fadayian-e Khalq, the monarchists, the liberals, and many of the nationalists are engaged in espionage for Iraq in Iran.

These are mercenaraies and report the Iranian situation quickly to Iraq, which knows now that we are strong in the field. Iraq conceded, and we thank all those who may have helped and we shall see what will happen after this test. We shall see whether they will implement the resolution as they wrote it or not; whether they will stand by their own word or not.

You have identified and introduced the aggressor in these discussions, and I now address you. The conclusion to your conference is clear, and you should adhere to this conclusion, follow it up to see to what extent they will honor justice. Our nation is an appreciative and grateful nation. If our nation realizes that others are not taking

action against it, this nation will appreciate it as far as Islamic values allow. It does not matter who does this, whether the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, or others. Anybody who follows the line of justice will deserve our nation's appreciation.

The path that we have chosen in our revolution, namely the path of the prophets, is irreversible. Our nation supports this path, as it was chosen by our people and by our leadership, and we shall continue along this path.

All kinds of allegations and slanders which have been circulating about our revolution, in order to violate our rights, will be revealed in time. One characteristic of the truth is that it comes to the surface gradually. The truth is like the sun. It may be momentarily covered, but eventually the clouds will clear and light will appear.

We rely on the God of this universe; those deeds we carry out are considered our duty. We have the duty to do this; we are only carrying out our duty. What is presented as the outcome of any of our actions is a matter for discussion for us, whatever it may be. Peace of mind will only be achieved after one carries out one's duty, and we hope that this mode of thought becomes more pervasive throughout the world. [passage omitted]

Velayati Interviewed on Talks in Libya, Syria

LD1508174888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent on 15 August at Tehran Mehrabad Airport—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Velayati, please tell us what issues were discussed during your visit to Libya and Syria?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The trip to Syria and Libya was undertaken in order to hand over a message from His Excellency Mr Khamene'i to the Syrian president and the Libyan leader. As you are aware, following the acceptance of Resolution 598 by the Islamic Republic of Iran, numerous delegations have visited various parts of the world to inform friendly countries about developments. It was decided that I should go to the two fraternal countries of Syria and Libya. The reason for delay was the need to allow the United Nations to complete its work.

During discussions with the leaders and officials of Syria and Libya, we reviewed the latest regional developments, particularly since the acceptance of Resolution 598, and also links between Iran and the United Nations. We also discussed the future, and we all agreed that future relations between the three countries will be a continuation of the trend of the past, that is, further strengthened. The relations between Iran, Syria, and Libya are strategic. The closeness of these three countries is the result of important and vital issues over which all three countries agree and have a joint point of view. The most important issue is that of Palestine.

Also important are the attitudes of the leaders of the three countries toward issues concerning the world of Islam and the Third World. These exchanges of views will continue. During my stay in Damascus we also held discussions with the Hezbollah Council, Shaykh Shams al-Din, and Nabih Birri. The Lebanese presidential elections will soon be held, so it is necessary for the Lebanese Muslims to maintain and strengthen their unity, and to avoid disagreements and divisions. The various struggling Islamic forces in Lebanon should unite so as to stop any violation of their rights.

[Correspondent] What is your evaluation of the position of the two countries' leaders concerning the latest Iranian position with respect to accepting the resolutions?

[Velayati] They consider this action to be a wise, correct, and timely act. They in fact support the decisive and calculated decision by the Islamic Republic on both the political scene and at the United Nations.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Returns From Libya, Syria

LD1508172488 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned here Monday afternoon at the end of a three-day visit to Damascus and Tripoli. He said to reporters at Tehran Mehrabad Airport that Iran's relations with Syria and Libya are "brotherly."

In Damascus and Tripoli Velayati submitted to Hafiz al-Asad and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi President 'Ali Khamene'i's messages.

The foreign minister said his talks with President al-Asad and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi focused on the U.N. Resolution 598 and ways of expanding Tehran's ties with the two countries.

Velayati's visits to Damascus and Tripoli followed a series of visits to friendly countries by Iranian officials for talks on the U.N. Security Council resolution.

He said that Iran, Syria and Libya enjoy "strategic, friendly and strong ties" and have identical stances on important regional and international issues, despite suggestions to the contrary by certain Western media.

Larijani Leads Political Delegation to Bonn
LD1508122688 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—A political delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister for American and European Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani left here for Bonn Monday.

The delegation is to hold talks with high ranking officials of the Federal Republic of Germany on issues of mutual interest.

Discusses Ties, Hostages
LD1608082588 Tehran IRNA in English 0742 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—Foreign Ministry Deputy for Euro-American affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani arrived in Bonn Monday evening and went into immediate discussions with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Larijani presented to Genscher a message from Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi for West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl who is currently on a visit abroad.

During the meeting both sides stressed further expansion of Tehran-Bonn ties and discussed regional and international issues. Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 on ending Iraq-Iran war was also raised at the meeting.

Larijani stated Iran's interest in settling the imposed war on the basis of the resolution and expressed hope that the European Economic Community and West Germany in particular would cooperate in this respect.

Larijani told Genscher that the Islamic Republic of Iran in peace time and during economic reconstruction will not forget those friends who did not leave Iran alone in times of difficulties.

Undoubtedly, he added, West Germany is one such country and Iran welcomes close cooperation with it for post-war cooperation and reconstruction.

Larijani said that Iran will take part in Geneva peace talks at the ministerial level, and expressed fears that the Baghdad regime would try to drag the negotiations in order to overshadow its domestic problems.

Another issue raised was that of the hostages and Larijani stresed that Iran in order to help its friends will use its influence in Lebanon.

PRC Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 15 Aug
LD1608090088 Tehran IRNA in English 0804 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—China's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Qi Huaiyuan arrived here Monday night heading a high-ranking delegation and was welcomed at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Mansuri.

In a talk on his arrival, Qi said Beijing hails Iran's acceptance of the U.N. Resolution 598 adding his country attached special importance to its ties with the Islamic Republic.

During his visit Qi is due to discuss with Iranian officials implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598, further expansion of Tehran-Beijing ties and China's readiness to cooperate with Iran in post-war reconstruction.

Besharati Meets With EEC Envoys 14 Aug
LD1508122788 Tehran IRNA in English 1206 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—The Islamic Republic pursues a policy of friendly ties with all countries especially the neighbouring ones, said acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati to a group of ambassadors of the European Economic Community (EEC) here Sunday.

Besharati said the Iraqi regime had launched a war against Iran dreaming to overthrow the Islamic system and to disintegrate the country. But eight years of war forced it back to the borders frustrating all its evil designs, he added.

The funny thing is, said Besharati, having failed to realize its aims the Iraqi regime is celebrating the event and nobody knows for what reason it is doing so.

The acting foreign minister told ambassadors Armin Freitag (West Germany) Dhimitrios Argyriadhis (Greece) and Jose Maria Sierra (Spain) that real celebrations for peace would start when the aggressor is duly identified according to Resolution 598, so that no one starts a war again.

This important task has been delegated to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, he said reiterating that it is high time for stable peace because the region cannot tolerate war any more.

Besharati also expressed hope foreign fleets would soon quit the Persian Gulf as per Article 5 of Resolution 598.

Later in the meet, the three Western European envoys submitted a statement of a recent EEC meet on the cease-fire stating unsparing cooperation of the community with the Security Council to establish stable peace in the region.

Report Given on Forming Resolution Committees
LD1508172788 Tehran IRNA in English 1718 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—A report on formation of local committees for overseeing the implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 was presented to the cabinet here today.

The cabinet stressed adherence to Iran's declared policies for establishing peace within the framework of the U.N. Resolution, and agreed that economic reconstruction policies be formulated and presented to the cabinet at the shortest possible time.

Self-Sufficiency Crusade Tugboat Launched
LD1508123888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Here is a report on launching "Yunus," the first tugboat of the Self-Sufficiency Crusade Department of the Iranian Navy, which took place at Bandar-e 'Abbas today.

The undersecretary for the Navy's Self-Sufficiency Crusade Department, in a speech marking the launching of the tugboat "Yunus," said about the activity of his office, which aims to achieve military independence, that one of his office's major projects has been designing and building the tugboat "Yunus." This was implemented by the committed and expert personnel of the self-sufficiency department.

He said that the tugboat, which is 15 meters long, 5 meters wide and can go 10 nautical miles per hour, took about 14 months to build. The tugboat has a 500-horsepower engine, and it will undertake towing commercial and naval vessels. One of the distinguished characteristics of the tugboat is its ability to rotate 360 degrees from a stationary position. [passage omitted]

BORBA Interviews Mojahedin-e Khalq Official
AU1108175288 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 10 Aug 88 p 5

[Report on an "exclusive" interview with 'Alireza Ja'ffazadeh, high ranking official of the National Liberation Army of Iran and the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, by Milovan Jaukovic: "Peace Is Our Weapon"—in Iraq, date not given]

[Text] "The war against Iraq was a way of surviving for Khomeyni and the ruling mullahs and a cover for wide repression of the people. Total and permanent peace would be, undoubtedly, a noose for the present regime and the best present for the National Liberation Army of Iran [NLA], which is currently fighting against the present Iranian regime under the banner of peace and freedom. This is why we signed an agreement for peace with Iraq as far back as 1983 and why we have been taking all available international steps to realize this peace agreement."

This was stated by 'Alireza Ja'ffazadeh, high-ranking official of the NLA and the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, in an exclusive interview with BORBA. The interview was conducted in one of the organization's offices in Iraq immediately after the 3-day occupation of Karand and Eslamabad by NLA units and before the cease-fire agreement.

Regaining Dignity

[Jaukovic] You speak about peace, but only few days after Iran had accepted Resolution 598, the NLA units forayed into Iran.

[Ja'ffazadeh] Our action was not aimed at undermining the UN peace efforts. On the contrary. The Khomeyni regime did not accept the resolution because it wants peace, but because it was forced to do so in order to lengthen its life to some extent. Did Khomeyni himself not say that Islam would be destroyed if Iran signed a peace agreement? The real aim of our operation was—as was that of the previous operation, the operation to conquer Mehran—to inflict the strongest possible blow and to demonstrate the way to overthrow Khomeyni.

[Jaukovic] Do you think that the NLA has become so strong militarily that is capable of defeating the Iranian war machine?

[Ja'ffazadeh] We have learned many lessons in the past and are not dreaming of running into direct clashes. We are not the liberators or emancipators, nor are we an organization which exclusively wants to impose its political alternative. Men are not children, as Khomeyni says, and do not need tutors. The Iranian people will liberate themselves and the NLA is there only to show them the correct way. In addition, our activities are not only carried out in battlefields; there is a well-spread out resistance network within the country.

[Jaukovic] Your ultimate goal is therefore to overthrow the existing regime. Do you think that the people will be on your side?

[Ja'ffazadeh] Repression and propaganda have been the basis of the system and the method of ruling, and the war was a cover for that. In order to simply live in Iran you need the so-called military certificate that you spent 3 months in the war. If you need a driver's license or food coupons, if you want to get married, if you want to breathe—you need this certificate. The people did not have any other alternative but to go to war. They have, however, started to show resistance to this. Is the series of defeats and the military disintegration at the front not proof that the people simply do not want to fight for Khomeyni and his mullahs any more?

[Jaukovic] The Program of the Council of National Resistance, the NLA's highest body, mentions an interim government.

[Ja'ffazadeh] The main task of the interim government of the Democratic Islamic Republic of Iran will be to return sovereignty and dignity to the people and to establish new democratic rules for ruling. This program envisages the establishment of a true people's government elected in free elections, the establishment of the parliament, and equal political and social rights regardless of race, sex, ethnic origin, or religion. No religious group, not even Muslims, would be a privileged category of citizens.

Islamic Socialism

[Jaukovic] The shah called mojahedin the Islamic Marxists and you today speak about Islamic socialism.

[Ja'ffazadeh] Ideology, at least as regards the National Liberation Army, is of the secondary importance at present. The resistance movement is above all nationalistically and patriotically orientated. The NLA ranks are open to all those who want to fight, not only against Khomeyni, but also for the freedom of their people. On the other hand, we mojahedin are Muslims but are orientated toward Islamic socialism and democracy. The attributes of socialism and democracy have the primary aim of stressing the difference between our interpretation of Islam and that of Khomeyni.

[Jaukovic] Where is the borderline?

[Ja'ffazadeh] Khomeyni's rule is nothing more than an extremely reactionary religious dictatorship. Khomeyni promised a lot; he promised to defend independence, freedom, and Islam. Our people sacrificed everything to overthrow the shah.

Unfortunately, Imam Khomeyni broke all his promises and the people got a much more repressive regime than the shah's. It was a matter of either Islam and veils or a bullet in the head. In place of a legitimate government there is a rule of one man. Instead of serving the people, he became their master.

In contrast to Khomeyni, who is a symbol of past and dark times, the mojahedin believe in Islam which is in line with democratic traditions, progress, and respect for peoples' human rights. According to the nature of their policies and orientation, the mojahedin are nonaligned and favor cooperation with all people on the basis of respect, full sovereignty, and non-interference in internal affairs.

[Jaukovic] Military experts call the NLA the most educated army in the world.

[Ja'ffazadeh] Our army is above all a voluntary army. All those who joined it did this consciously with the idea and wish to return dignity to their people. The NLA consists mainly of intellectuals who came from various parts of the world and who graduated from the most famous universities in the world. There are also, of course, those with less education. Recently we were joined by a number of former members of the Iranian army, officers and soldiers who have much military training. The average age of our fighters is 20 to 30, while that of the officer cadre is 30 to 35.

[The following passage appears boxed within the body of the item]

Basis

The main military strongholds of the NLA are on the Iranian-Iraqi border, or to be more precise, on the northern, central, and the southern front. The NLA members are mainly armed with Soviet- or American-produced weapons. Many arms were also reclaimed in the direct clashes with the Iranian army and the "Pasdarans."

The NLA conducted its first major operation last March when it attacked Iranian oil installations in the South, in Khuzestan Province. In June this year it carried out the operation called "40 Stars" and won the city of Mehran, an important Iranian stronghold in the central front. On 25 July, NLA units captured Karand and Eslamabad, some 50 to 150km inside Iranian territory, and held it for 72 hours.

KEYHAN on Mojahedin-Iraqi Cooperation

PM1208160188 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Aug 88 p 2

[Editorial by 'Abdi Nik-bin: "From Consultation to Cooperation: Short Analysis on Suicidal Policies of Hypocrites"]

[Text] The military cooperation between the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and the Ba'thist forces in their new aggression against our homeland is nothing to speak of in terms of military significance. However, it is important in that it has promoted the ranks of the Hypocrites from consultation to cooperation.

Without a doubt, if the cohabitation of the Hypocrites and the Ba'thist forces had not occurred in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Karand, and Eslamabad, it would have been difficult for the people to swallow their joining forces. If what the Hypocrites say is true, and history will be the judge, then this particular judge will not delay in issuing the verdict. The crime is too big for the judge to ignore.

Although making peace with the enemy has brought many to power, it has never been done at the price the Hypocrites were willing to pay: the savage killing of children and innocent peole who were defending their country's independence.

Louis XVIII, after an agreement among Britain, Russia, and Prussia, seized power without firing a single shot at his own people. But, because he had entered the country in a coach driven by a foreign country, he was always hated by the people and it was not long before he was brought down.

The leaders of the Hypocrites did not consider for one moment the feelings of the people and their desire to fight foreign elements. At the most sensitive moment, they rose to help the enemy and killed innocent people from both countries. After the massacre, even the most deaf and blind of the mass media heard the cries of the children burned by chemical weapons and raised their voices in condemnation. But the insane notions of the Hypocrites' leadership prevented it from understanding the people's hatred of the enemy and its allies. Thinking that the people would cooperate with them and that they would win, they sent their forces into the killing fields.

Of course, one cannot underestimate the ability of the Hypocrites' leadership to fool their members and supporters. Despite their repeated defeats, both tactically and strategically, some still follow them blindly into a black hole. Now the question is: How will the Hypocrites explain this defeat to their followers? To answer this question one must first find out what aims the group had in this operation and if these aims were met.

The leaders of the Hypocrites for a long time now have spoken of a day of destiny. They were preparing for such a day. They were thinking that they could settle things once and for all and take power into their own hands. Iran's acceptance of UN Resolution 598 destroyed all their dreams by changing the day of destiny. They then convinced their supporters that this was their day of destiny and they sent the off to meet their fate. The result was clear to the group's leadership beforehand. The leaders knew it would be "defeat and escape."

So the mystery is why did their leaders, despite the fact that all their predictions had gone wrong, send their men to the killing fields? Was it to press a strategic pact with Saddam? Was it propaganda for the organization's weakening unity? Was it to disperse the collective energy of supporters who threatened the organization? Was it to get rid of and kill off troublesome elements? There are dozens more questions, which will have to be answered later.

More deadly for the Hypocrites than their losses is the repeated defeat of their strategy. There is no room for criticism in their organization and they are all terrorized by their leaders, so to cover their defeat and to answer the questions arising among them, they again will claim a victory against the Islamic Republic. The Hypocrites, who could not even prove themselves as the only powerful alternative to countries like the United States and the Westerners, are now caught in a crisis.

This defeat also means a defeat for revolutionary diplomacy. Although the West, especially the United States, has taken the Hypocrites under its wing as it has done with the royalists, hoping that they could reach power and they, in turn, would benefit from this power, the organization never got a chance to prove this power to the United States despite all its empty boasts. However, one must not think that the United States will abandon the Hypocrites because of their weakness. One now must wait for more revolutionary diplomacy and political moves.

One also must wait for more friendship between Saddam and the Hypocrites because the two sides are far too clever to regard the present circumstances as adequate examples to evaluate the operations or efforts on both sides to use each other. Without a doubt, the organizations's leaders heard the cries of their supporters as they were dying: "This is a well that Saddam has dug for us." But the leadership will stifle these cries of anger, silencing them until further notice.

Without a doubt, the renewed defeat of the group's strategy will not awaken sleeping consciences; there will be repercussions.

Pakistan

Najibullah's Brother Request Asylum in U.S.

BK1508070988 Hong Kong AFP in English 0635 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 15 (AFP)—The younger brother of Afghan President Najibullah has requested political asylum in the United States, diplomatic sources here said Monday.

Mr. Siddiqullah, who arrived secretly in Pakistan at the beginning of August, will leave for the United States with his wife and two children in the next few days, the sources said. Resistance sources in the northwestern border city of Peshawar had said Saturday that Mr. Siddiqullah was seeking asylum in Pakistan.

He and his family had fled Kabul in October to the Panjsher Valley in northern Afghanistan and sought protection from Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud of the moderate Jamiyat-e Eslami rebel group, the diplomatic sources here added.

Commander Mas'ud, known as the "Lion of Panjsher," is believed to be gathering an army of 10,000 to 12,000 men to march on Kabul in a few months.

Mr. Siddiqullah, who has never been favorable to the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, did time in prison for his opposition to the pro-Soviet government in Kabul.

Mr. Siddiqullah's defection to the mujahidin does not have great political significance but is an embarrassment to the Kabul government, which is pursuing a policy of "national reconciliation" aimed at bringing mujahidin and Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran back under Kabul's authority.

Mr. Siddiqullah, who arrived in Pakistan near Chitral in the mountainous north, joined the rebel camp to flee religious persecution, sources close to the resistance said.

The rebels, who fear reprisals by agents of the Afghan secret police KHAD in Pakistan, have taken major steps to protect him, an informed source said.

Mr. Siddiqullah is to hold a press conference Monday in or near Peshawar, where the leaders of the seven-party Afghan resistance reliance are based.

Holds News Conference

BK1508114888 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The brother of the head of the Kabul administration, Mr Siddiqullah Rahi, who joined the ranks with Afghan mujahidin 11 months earlier and arrived in Pakistan a week ago, addressed a crowded news conference in Peshawar this morning.

Replying to questions, Mr Siddiqullah declared that the Islamic government of the choice of the people of Afghanistan will very soon replace the puppet regime as the mujahidin were gaining strength day by day. He said his assertion was made on the fact that the head of the puppet regime, Dr Najibullah, had himself confided to his associates in the party meetings many times that they could not survive without the Soviet support. Once it was withdrawn it would not be possible for the ruling PDPA to remain in power.

He pointed out that the situation on the ground in Afghanistan was that the morale of the mujahidin was very high, their commitment was unwavering, and they have tremendous amount of guts to the puppet regime as and when they want it. [sentence as heard]

Replying to a question, he said as compared to the mujahidin, the morale of the PDPA members was very low. They were already afflicted with factionalism and a host of other problems. They had no guts to face the mujahidin. Their numbers had been grossly exaggerated. He said they were absolutely incapable of facing the Afghan resistance for lack of commitment. The mujahidin could take them on at a place and time of their own choice.

In this connection, Mr Siddiqullah Rahi pointed out the mujahidin overran garrisons and cantonments within no time whenever there was a confrontation between them and the Kabul regime forces. He said it was his wish to join the struggle of the mujahidin to see Afghanistan as an independent and Islamic state.

Further on News Conference

BK1508153488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1501 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 15 (AFP)—The younger brother of President Najibullah said Monday that the Afghan leader was "a liar and and ambitious man who sold his country and family" to become the head of state.

Mr. Siddiqullah Rahi, who arrived in Pakistan secretly last week, has asked for political asylum in the United States, diplomatic sources in Islamabad said.

He made the statement at a news conference at the Afghan resistance alliance headquarters here in his first public appearance since defecting to Afghan rebels last year.

Mr. Siddiqullah, 35, who fled in October to the mujahidin stronghold in the Panjsher Valley north of Kabul, told newsmen he had not decided whether to join jihad (holy war) or seek asylum.

Mr. Siddiqullah told newsmen he had been forcibly taken to Kabul from Hamburg after leaving Afghanistan for job in West Germany where he continued his criticism of his brother.

A day after drinking tea with Afghans in Hamburg, "I found myself in East Germany," he said, alleging that he had been drugged and abducted by the Afghan secret police KHAD and Soviet KGB agents.

"I was then forcibly brought to Kabul in 1981," he said. "My brother threatened me but when it did not work he assigned me a job in an Afghan bank."

He said his brothers Najibullah and Ahmedzai have become "KGB men."

Mr. Siddiqullah said he had ideological differences with his brother "who sold his family and the country for his ambitions."

Resistance leaders are keeping Mr. Siddiqullah's travel plans secret and are taking measures to protect him against reprisal by Afghan agents.

He said Najibullah offered him diplomatic assignments abroad including a post as consul general in Moscow if he changed his views.

He was imprisoned for four months in 1987 over his policy of national reconciliation, he said.

He claimed that Mr. Najibullah poisoned his wife and arranged the murder of his 60-year old father, a diabetic, because of his opposition to communism.

He said he heard Mr. Najibullah repeatedly tell leaders of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) that he could "not rule Kabul without the support of the Soviet Union." "But his government is very weak and would be toppled soon," Mr. Siddiqullah said.

He joined the PDPA in 1964 and worked for the party as a student activist, he said, but when he realised its objectives were un-Islamic became a vocal opponent.

The diplomatic sources in Islamabad said he will leave for the United States with his wife and two children in the next few days.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan To Visit Iran 17 Aug

BK1508162288 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, leaves for Tehran on Wednesday [17 August] for talks with Iranian leaders on matters of bilateral interest. During his 2-day stay there, he is also to hold talks with his Iranian counterpart, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, on regional and international issues. Radio Pakistan's diplomatic representative says his visit to Tehran has got special significance in the context of present regional situation.

Opposition Group Wants Party-Based Elections

BK1308043088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] In Pakistan, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy [MRD] has called for holding a free and impartial election on party basis. At a meeting in Peshawar the speakers said partyless elections in the past had led to ethnic and sectarian conflicts and damaged the country's unity.

Presiding over the meeting, the Awami National Party chief, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, said it is the people of Pakistan and not President Ziaul Haq who have the right to determine the future of the country through party-based elections.

Rally Held in Rawalpindi

BK1508031588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0244 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Opposition leaders in Pakistan have called for a mass campaign to compel President Ziaul Haq to hold the November elections on a party basis. The call came from prominent leaders of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy at a big rally in Rawalpindi yesterday. President Ziaul Haq said parties will be allowed to campaign but candidates will participate in the elections as individuals.

According to a Lahore newspaper, General Ziaul Haq now also favors banning political parties from Parliament.

Commentary Counters Indian Propaganda

BK1608044388 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President Mohammad Ziaul Haq exchanged messages of felicitations on the independence day of Pakistan and India on August 14 and 15 respectively. It is customary for heads of states and governments to send formal greetings to their counterparts on such occasions. The opportunity is also utilized for conveying the thoughts closest to the sender's mind on mutual relations.

The Indian prime minister in his message to the president of Pakistan emphasized the importance of the Simla Agreement in the context of establishing cordial and cooperative relations between the two countries.

Pakistan would wholeheartedly welcome that friendly relations between the two countries were fostered in accordance with the Simla Agreement. Yet one is somewhat dismayed that despite a clear understanding contained in the Simla Agreement all outstanding questions between the two countries, including that of Kashmir, would be settled peacefully, ever since the agreement was signed India has seldom responded positively to the Pakistani overtures to negotiate the matter.

Besides, contrary to the spirit of the Simla Agreement, the Indian leadership spares no effort to malign Pakistan for action not committed by it. A case in point is the virulent anti-Pakistan campaign launched by the Indian premier during his recent foreign tour in contravention of all diplomatic norms.

In a recent newspaper interview, Pakistan's president dealt with unsympathetic stance toward Pakistan in the context of Afghanistan problem and its unreasonable attitude toward Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program. Afghanistan is a predominantly Muslim country. They reacted violently when foreign military intervention threatened their Islamic identity.

Now that the mujahidin, whose Islamic orientation is well-known, are poised to gain ascendency in Afghanistan, the Indian prime minister has spoken disparagingly of the possibility of the induction of the so-called fundamentalist government in Afghanistan.

India had turned a blind eye to the suffering of the Afghan people to which they were subjected since the Soviet invasion. Having thus isolated itself from the problem, India now seems desperate to find for itself a role in the Afghan affairs in the post-Soviet era. In this context, Mr Rajiv Gandhi also keeps accusing Pakistan of violating the Geneva accord despite the fact that the UN agency meant to monitor its implementation has found no such fault in Pakistan's conduct.

On Pakistan's nuclear program, India's attitude is indeed strange. It detonated its own nuclear device way back in 1974, but would raise all kinds of objections to Pakistan's peaceful program. It would also not agree to any reasonable proposal coming from any quarter for international safeguards against nuclear proliferation, including inspection of nuclear installations in the two countries on a regional or bilateral basis.

The recent Indian acquisition of nuclear submarine is hardly compatible with its insistence that Pakistan should not be permitted to carry out its limited nuclear program which is primarily directed at generating additional energy to meet its ever increasing requirement in this sphere.

India-Pakistan relations need a lot of improvement. Declarations of good intentions must be matched with positive measures for mutual confidence building. If the bigger partner in the deal does not wish to take any initiative, it should at least not reject the hand of friendship extended by the other side.

Sri Lanka

Bomb Blast in Trincomalee Kills 6, Injures 10

BK1608055888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0637 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Colombo, Aug 16 (AFP)—Suspected Tamil guerrillas set off a powerful bomb outside a busy market in eastern Sri Lanka Tuesday, killing six civilians and seriously wounding 10, security sources here said.

The attack in the port town of Trincomalee appeared to have been aimed at preventing the reopening of the district secretariat which has been shut for nearly a month following threats by Tamil militants, the sources said.

They said the bomb was believed to have been planted by the dominant separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, (LTTE) which has carried out similar attacks in the region.

LTTE Blows Up Bridge; 6 Indian Soldiers Killed

BK1308145488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the PKF today foiled an attempt by LTTE to blow up a Jaffna-bound passenger train from Colombo. The LTTE had heavily mined a bridge about 15 kilometers north of Vavuniya where the track passes through dense forest.

When a unit of PKF went to check the track, the LTTE electronically blew up the bridge. Six PKF soldiers were killed and two injured. Some damage to the railway track was also reported. The train later came back to Colombo. In a second incident, LTTE blasted the rail track in Mankulam town.

Security Increased

BK1408103888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1020 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Colombo, Aug 14 (AFP)—Security has been stepped up at the Indian High Commission (embassy) and the residences of its diplomats here ahead of India's independence anniversary on Monday, a military spokesman said. "The number of security personnel at vulnerable points has been strengthened," the spokesman said Sunday.

In other developments, two Indian soldiers were killed in the northern port town of Kankesanturai Saturday night in a shootout with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a high commission spokeswoman said. The killings bring the death toll in weekend violence to nine.

Seven Indian soldiers were killed in Kanakarayankulam village in northeastern Vavuniya District Saturday morning when the LTTE blasted a railway track the soldiers were clearing for the northbound Jaffna train.

India has some 49,000 troops in the island's Northern and Eastern Provinces in line with a July 1987 peace pact to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign. The LTTE, the dominant rebel group, rejected the peace pact, prompting an Indian offensive on October 10 to disarm the group. Fighting since then has left more than 550 Indian soldiers and 2,000 suspected Tamil rebels dead.